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T.V. SPORTS

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

ACHIEVEMENT '84:
THE FANS CHOOSE WRESTLING'S BEST

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
1984 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
KERRY VON ERICH
MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
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PLUS—1984: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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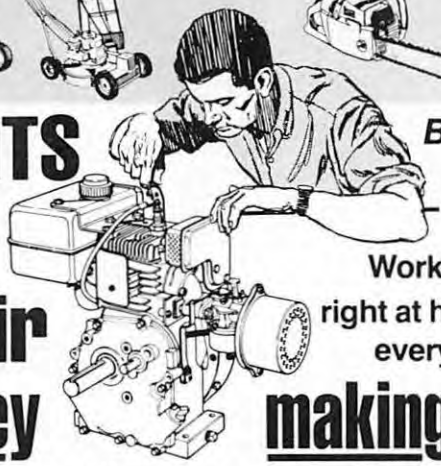

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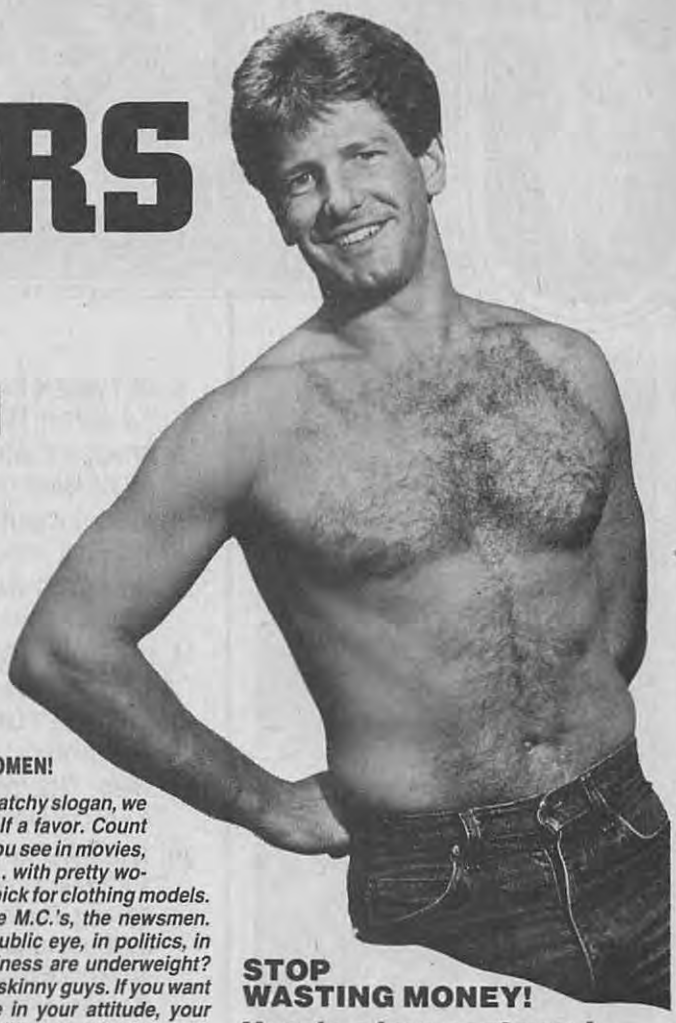
I TRIED FOR YEARS TO GAIN WEIGHT



It wasn't easy until now!

That's what so many men are saying after using *ShapeUp*, the marvelous, new compound, especially formulated by nutritionists, sports dietitians and biochemists for the sole purpose of helping men to more healthful, sturdier and better developed bodies.

MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PAGE 50: A HISTORIC MATCH

PAGE 44: INSPIRING A NATION

Cover Photos:
Flair and Warriors & Ellering
by Bill Apter
Von Erich by Buddy Myers

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Von Erich-Flair and Piper by Bill Apter
Billy Jack by Bill Otten

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CONTENTS/MARCH 1985

6 BETWEEN FALLS
Awesome!; How About Ronnie Garvin?; An Open Letter To Chris Adams

8 RINGSIDE with Bill Apter
All the latest news as of press time

10 KING'S COURT by Peter King
The First Annual Not Necessarily The *PWI* Awards!

12 ON ASSIGNMENT by Liz Hunter
Why is Kerry Von Erich so popular?

14 DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL by Stu Saks
The reactions of the Achievement '84 award winners

18 OFF THE TOP ROPE by Dan Shocket
The rulebreakers' spokesman dips into his mailbag

21 1984: THE YEAR IN REVIEW
A special look back at the events of the past 12 months

29 THE *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* ACHIEVEMENT '84 AWARDS
30 Wrestler of the Year: Ric Flair
32 Tag Team Of The Year: The Road Warriors
34 Most Improved Wrestler of the Year: Billy Jack
40 Most Popular Wrestler of the Year: Kerry Von Erich
42 Most Hated Wrestler of the Year: Roddy Piper
44 Inspirational Wrestler of the Year: Sgt. Slaughter
46 Rookie of the Year: Mike Von Erich
48 Manager of the Year: Precious Paul Ellering
50 Match of the Year: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair
52 *PWI* Editors' Award: David Von Erich

35 SPECIAL FOUR-PAGE BONUS FULL-COLOR PINUP SECTION
Magnificent full-color collectors' portraits of:
- 1984's Most Improved Wrestler of the Year: Billy Jack
- 1984's Match of the Year: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair
- 1984's Most Hated Wrestler of the Year: Roddy Piper

68 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
The sport's most respected rankings

70 RATINGS ANALYSIS
Where did the Achievement '84 winners rank at this time last year?

STANLEY WESTON ..... *President & Publisher*
PETER KING ..... *Editor-in-Chief*
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There are all kinds of ways to make money. Good golly, Molly — if anyone knows that, I do! For the past 20+ years I've concentrated on finding, investigating, creating and specifically singling out only the very finest legal and ethical methods for carving out a mass of wealth in a hurry. But believe me, in all those years never have I experienced anything remotely as exciting as this one!

Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
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- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
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- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of $100,000.00 by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's **cash**, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

- ★ No sex or off-color stuff
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For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS world-wide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

WHO CAN DO IT

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WHAT IS REQUIRED

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We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, layed-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

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Mohidin Mohammed, Sweden

"We are so impressed . . . have our 13 and 16 year olds involved . . . thanks for giving our family new hope."
MacClear Family, Indiana

". . . man in economically depressed area left $35,000 secure job to put this method to work . . . made $120,000. First man I've ever met who really made money on idea purchased through mail." David Roman, Editor, ROMAN REPORTS, Ohio

WHAT TO DO NOW

You've got two choices:

1. Put this ad aside, wait 90 days or so and perhaps lose your chance at $100,000.

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A few months back in our DAX MONEY-MAKER® CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, we reported on another business that can easily net $1,000 a week for life. It's a bit more involved and does require getting out and about, but our readers were so delighted with it that I'm including it as an extra **free bonus** when you order our new special DAX report, "$100,000 in 90 Days."

2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years **repeat buyers** of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason . . .

— Dean F. V. Du Vall

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BETWEEN FALLS
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Rockville Centre, NY 11571

AWESOME!

Not that it was any surprise, at least not to me, but I was ecstatic when I spotted the cover of your January 1985 issue and read that The Road Warriors defeated Crusher and Baron Von Raschke to win the AWA World tag team championship ("Awesome Destruction: The Road Warriors Power To Their First World Title").

Those two old men Crusher and Von Raschke were no match for the strength and power of Animal and Hawk, or the strategic brilliance of Precious Paul Ellering. I think they knew that from the beginning, and only hoped that some miracle would let them successfully defend the title. But that wasn't the case: The Warriors were at their best and they weren't going to let anything stand in the way of taking the belts.

Ellering was absolutely correct, as he always is, when he said, "The Road Warriors are the greatest tag team in wrestling."

BO FREDERICK
Valley Stream, NY

Tell me, honestly, who is going to beat The Road Warriors? I don't think it's possible. The Warriors are the two most incredible wrestlers I have ever seen in my life, and they'll be AWA World tag team champions for as long as they want to be.

Just looking at the cover of January's *PWI,* it's obvious that Baron Von Raschke and The Crusher were no match for the Warriors. Look at the pain in Von Raschke's face! Look at the sweat pouring off of his head. While you're at it, notice that Hawk hasn't hardly broken a sweat, and if he is sweating, it's probably because he had to chase those two old men around the ring.

The Road Warriors are wrestling's future. And with a future like that, who cares about the past?

DAVID SCHWARTZ
Irvine, CA

National champion Ronnie Garvin should have been a candidate for Inspirational Wrestler of the Year, writes Stephen Caruso. When the votes were tallied, Garvin was voted third runner-up as Most Improved Wrestler.

HOW ABOUT RONNIE GARVIN?

I think *PWI* is the best magazine on the stands, but in recent months I've wondered why you've not had a full-color pinup of one of the best wrestlers in the NWA, Ronnie Garvin.

Garvin recently captured one of the top prizes in professional wrestling, the National heavyweight championship. This makes Garvin a top contender for Ric Flair's NWA World title.

Another thing, in the January 1985 issue of *PWI,* why wasn't Garvin listed as a top candidate for Inspirational Wrestler of the Year? Garvin had many roadblocks to

(Continued on page 54)

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"I always wanted to be in business for myself and now I am . . . thanks to Foley-Belsaw Institute.

David Fairbrother—Dave's Locksmith Service Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

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Sam Walker Prichard, Alabama

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City_____

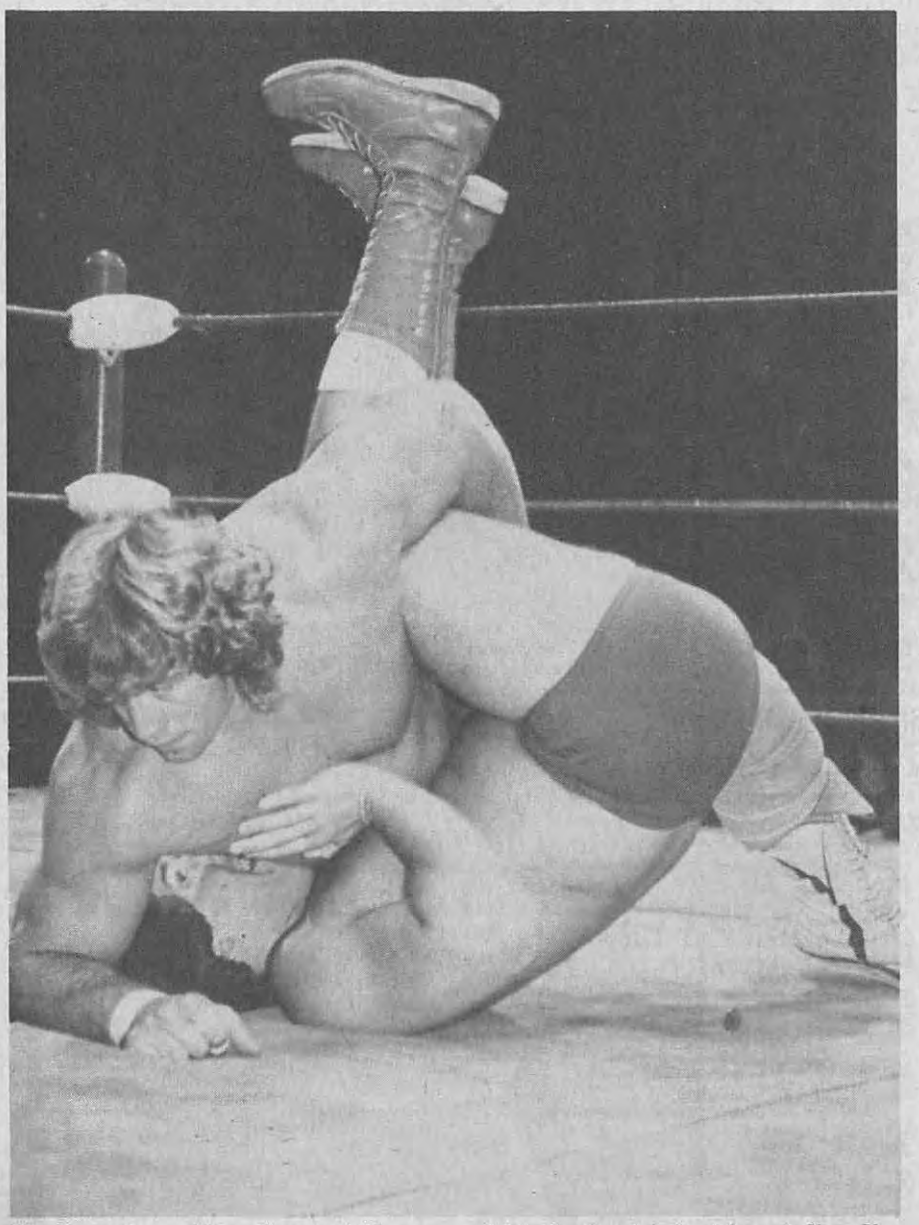
State_____ **Zip**_____

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

CONGRATULATIONS ARE Extended to **Kerry Von Erich**, who captured the World Class American heavyweight title from **Gino Hernandez** on October 29 in the Will Rogers Coliseum in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Kerry forced Hernandez into the ropes and rolled him up on the rebound for a backslide pin. It was the same move he used to win the NWA World title from **Ric Flair** on May 6 in Texas Stadium.



Gino Hernandez would be able to work his way out of this pin attempt, but not the next. Kerry Von Erich is the new World Class American champion.

"For a while in that match I was afraid I'd be stuck wrestling two on one," Kerry told **Pro Wrestling Illustrated**, "because there was every possibility in the world that **Nicola Roberts** was going to run into the ring at any time. In fact she tried to interfere in the match a couple of times, but I put her on warning right on the spot."

Kerry's brothers were very happy about the win, particularly **Mike Von Erich**, who suffered a shoulder injury in the match two months earlier in which he lost the American title to Hernandez.

"I'm extremely proud of my brother," Mike said, "and I know the fans are, too. There's been a lot of worry all around the World Class area, and all across the country, concerning Gino Hernandez. He had both the American and the Texas titles, and he has a piece of the six-man title. All he needed was a half of the tag team title, and he would have had a monopoly on the championships here. Not anymore. It's great to see him lose the American title and whine a lot. It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy!"

Killer Brooks, angered by not receiving $5,000 promised to him by **The Kiwi Sheepherders** for running **Manny Fernandez** out of the Southwest area, teamed with **Voodoo Mulumba** and **Al Madril** against the Sheepherders and **Eric Embry**. Brooks pinned Sheepherder **Luke Williams** for the win. Fernandez, by the way, can't be too upset by Brooks' actions. He went to the

(Continued on page 56)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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KING'S COURT

Rick Martel, at home in Quebec City with his father, Daniel, and his mother, Evelyne, is King's selection as "nicest champion."

By Peter King

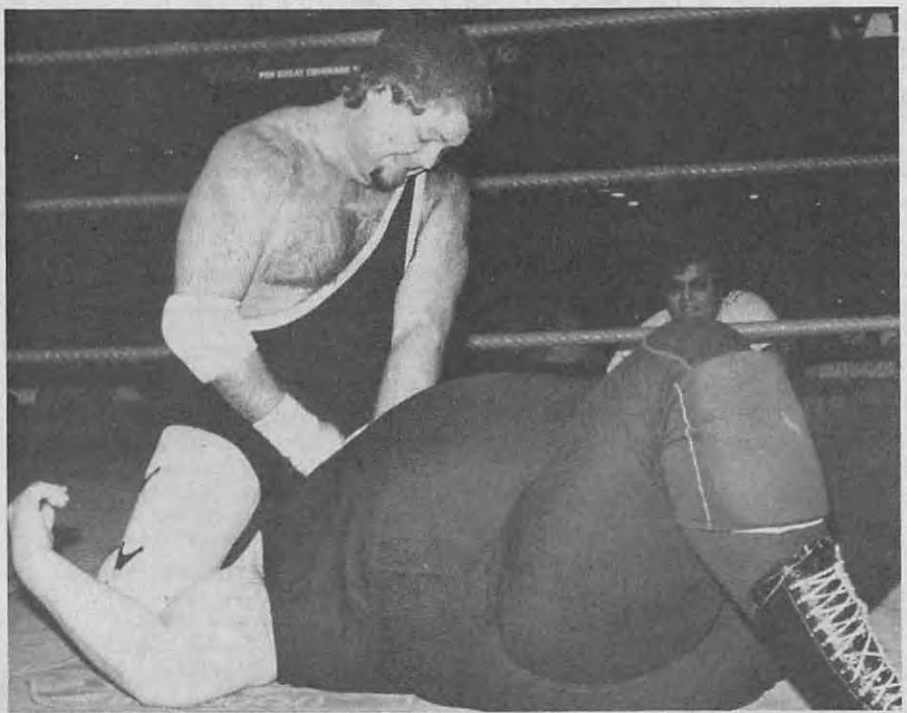
THE YEAR-END issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* has become a tradition the fans look forward to reading. And it is also a tradition that we look forward to doing. After being left woozy by the grind of 51 weekly deadlines for this and our sister publications, the year-end issue is a special time for all of us. We get a chance to look back and reflect on the past year.

Once again, this year you got to vote for winners in nine categories. These awards are a pretty good cross-section of wrestling. But it occurred to me that there are other awards that should be given out. Some of these are serious, some of these are humorous, and some are somewhere in between. We proudly present . . . **The First Annual Not Necessarily The *PWI* Awards.**

Best Hair Style
Jesse Ventura

Most Underrated Tag Team
Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo

Most Underrated Wrestler
Jerry Lawler



Jerry Lawler is very underrated, according to Peter King. Lawler has been one of the sport's best for years, but he doesn't get his deserved credit.

Nicest Champion
Rick Martel

Wrestler With The Most Potential
Billy Jack

Most Physically Fit Wrestler
Kevin Von Erich

Most Exciting Wrestler
Jimmy Snuka

Most Exciting Tag Team
The Fabulous Ones

Future Champion
Magnum T.A.

Time To Get Back In The Gym Trophy
The Samoans

Comeback Of The Year
Tommy Rich

Most Conceited Wrestler
Paul Orndorff

Exciting But Predictable Award
Hulk Hogan

Wrestler We'd Most Like To See Get Laryngitis
Roddy Piper

Most Shocking Attitude Change
Wahoo McDaniel

Most Pleasing Attitude Change
Sgt. Slaughter

Most Unsuccessful Move
The Freebirds coming to the WWF

Enough Is Enough Award
Cyndi Lauper's involvement with wrestling

Scarface Memorial Scar Tissue Award
Tie between Dusty Rhodes and Carlos Colon

(Continued on page 58)

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The back issues available in this ad are the top of our line. All of these magazines contain a color section, and many were newsstand sellouts. They are priced at only $3.00 each, so don't delay, order today.

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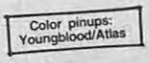

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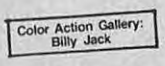

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ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

Like the Pied Piper, Kerry Von Erich draws a crowd wherever he walks. Even in Florida, away from his home state of Texas, Kerry is an extremely popular man.

WHAT MAKES KERRY Von Erich the most popular man in professional wrestling? As I sit here in a hotel room in Dallas, looking at a folder of newspaper clippings and photos of Kerry, I'm asking myself that exact question.

I'm not saying that Kerry shouldn't be. After all, how can I disagree with the 12,720 fans who voted for Kerry, making him this year's *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* award winner? What I'm really wondering is this: What exactly is it that distinguishes Kerry from his runners-up—Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, and Sgt. Slaughter?

One thing that Kerry has had that neither Hogan, Rhodes, nor Slaughter have had in the last year is the NWA World championship. But wait! Rhodes is a two-time former NWA champ *and* holds a victory over Flair in 1984, although it was a non-title win. Hogan holds the WWF title, maybe not as prestigious as the NWA World title, but he certainly works hard defending it against men like Paul Orndorff, David Shultz, and John Studd. And Slaughter made headlines as he made the wrestling world safe for democracy in 1984 by battling the anti-American sentiments of The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff.

So what does make Kerry Von Erich the most popular man in professional wrestling? The answer wasn't in the pile of newsprint I brought with me from New York. I found the answer to

(Continued on page 62)

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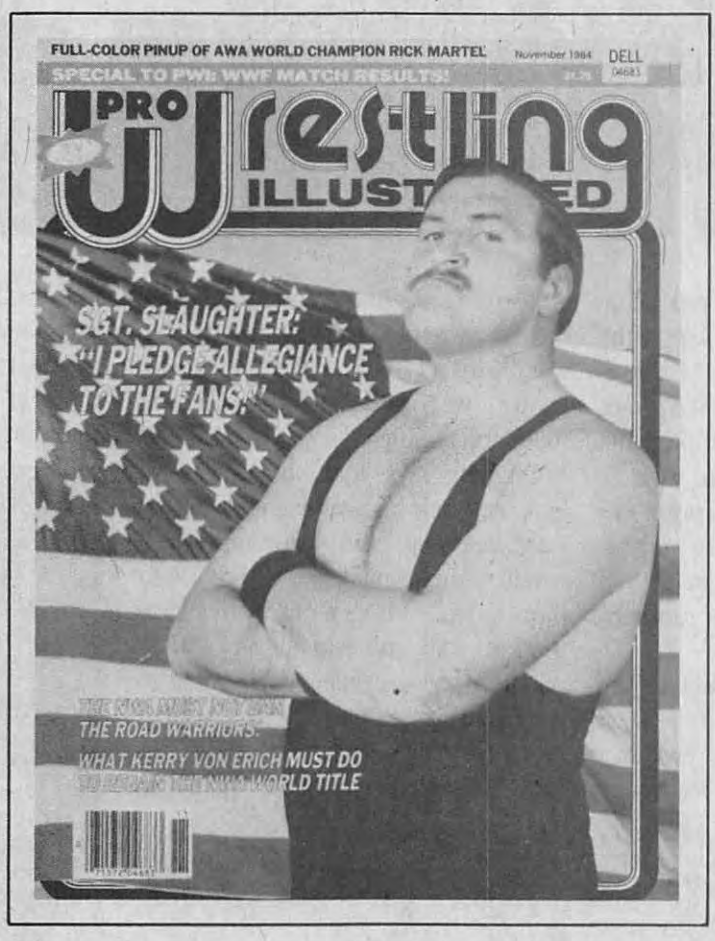
FULL-COLOR PINUP OF AWA WORLD CHAMPION RICK MARTEL
November 1984
DELL
SPECIAL TO PWI: WWF MATCH RESULTS!
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SGT. SLAUGHTER: "I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FANS!"
THE ROAD WARRIORS:
WHAT KERRY VON ERICH MUST DO

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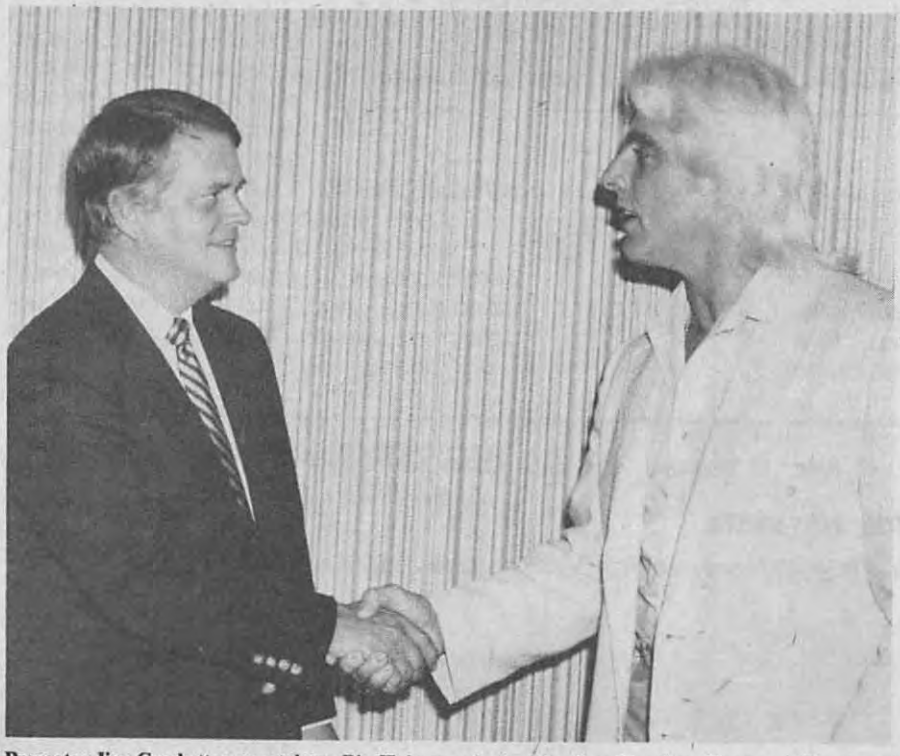
DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

By Stu Saks

I'LL BET NOT many of you know how important your vote was in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Achievement '84" year-end awards. We're not talking about some run-of-the mill popularity poll here. The nine awards, chosen annually by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* are taken very seriously by the wrestlers, mainly, I think, because they are taken very seriously by the promoters.

"There is not one promoter who isn't heavily influenced by these awards," said Mid-Atlantic promoter Jim Crockett. "When the readers of the world's largest, most highly respected wrestling magazine in the world make their collective voices known, we, as promoters would be fools not to listen."

Crockett says that the promoters look not only at the winners, but at the runners-up when choosing which wrestlers they would like to bring into their areas. "It's a fact that the winners and runners-up in *PWI's* year-end poll are going to be able to command larger purses," the veteran promoter said. "It's much like the Most Valuable Player or the Cy Young award winner in baseball. Come contract time, he's going to remind the general manager just what his talents mean in dollars and cents. It's not much different in wrestling. These are the people the fans want to see, whether they be Most Popular, Most Hated, or anything else."



Promoter Jim Crockett congratulates Ric Flair on winning the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Wrestler of the Year award. From a promoter's standpoint, Crockett knows that this award will enable Flair to command larger purses.

Flair was very deserving of the award. After losing the NWA World championship to Kerry Von Erich in Texas, he regains it with a rolling cradle in Japan three weeks later.

After speaking to the winners in the nine categories by telephone, I can't say that I agree with Crockett. Some winners were truly honored, while some didn't seem to care one way or the other. Only one, the Manager of the Year, spoke about the award from a financial point of view.

Ric Flair (Wrestler of the Year, page 30): "Every once in a while, I have renewed hope for this world we live in.

(Continued on page 64)

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THE WRESTLER

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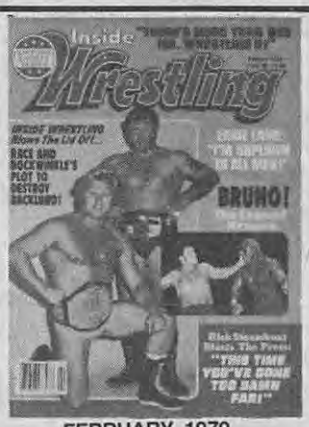


FEBRUARY 1979

April 1974/Stories include: Murdoch, Koloff, Sammartino, Strongbow.

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

January 1976/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Ladd, Putski.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

February 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Koloff, Johnson.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

May 1978/Stories include: Race, Putski, Von Erich, Andre.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

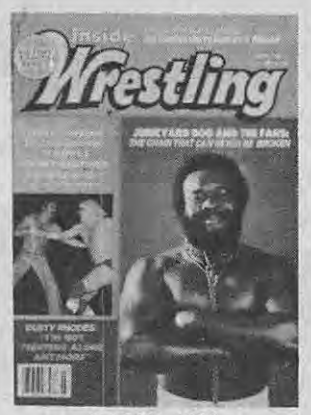
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.



MARCH 1984

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ APR 74	☐ AUG 77	☐ OCT 79	☐ MAY 82	☐ MAR 84
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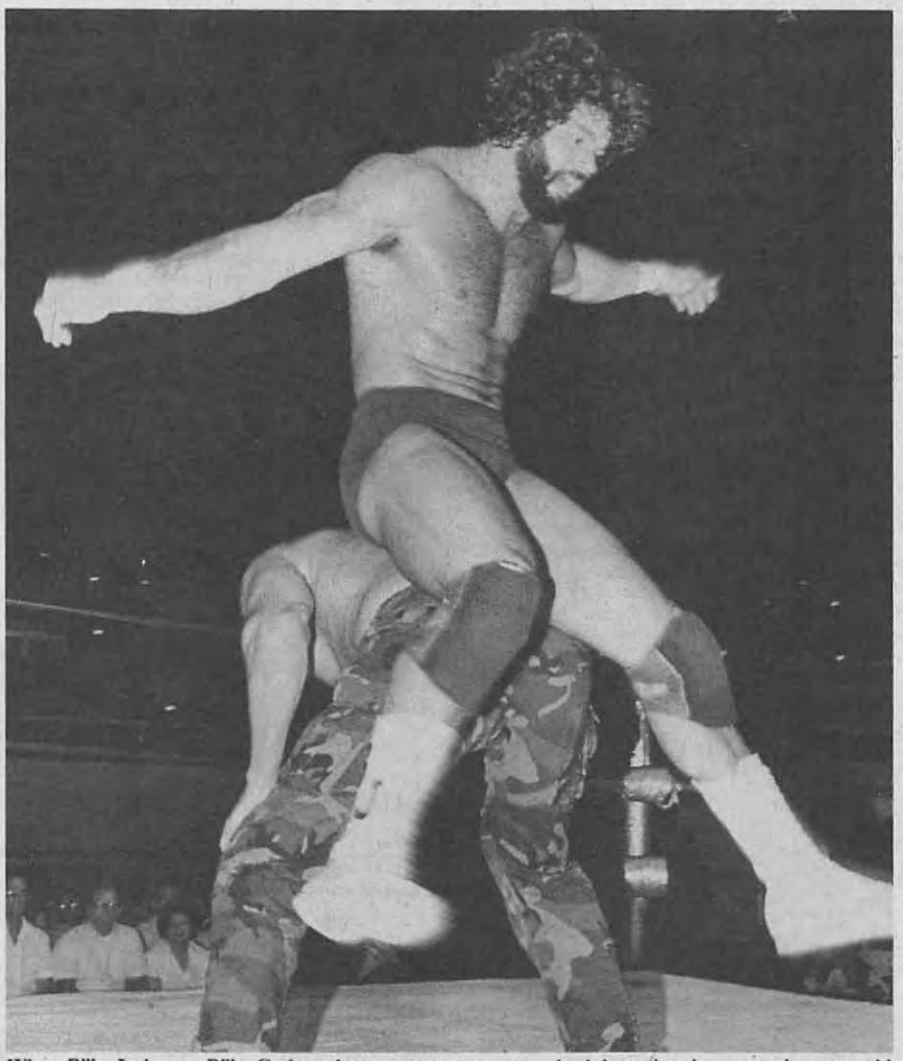
OFF THE TOP ROPE

By Dan Shocket



When Billy Jack sees Billy Graham bent over to excecute a backdrop, he chooses to leap over his man. The proper move would have been to lift his knee into his opponent's exposed face. But Billy Jack would rather be spectacular than good.

[Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Dan Shocket himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

IT HAS NEVER ceased to amaze me, as I wade through a barrage of misspelled insults, that someone can deem me illiterate and misspell the word. So as not to embarrass yourselves any further, you might wish to cut out this paragraph and keep the following list: "stupid," "ignorant," "dumb," "jealous," "moron," and "fool." For the more adventurous, might I suggest: "blithering idiot," "foul canker on the body of humanity," and "mendacious reprobate." This should raise the level of our dialogue somewhat.

Speaking of dialogue, let us begin:

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

You have *no* right to say what you did recently about Billy Jack! He is not clumsy or simpleminded. He is very smart and a very good wrestler.

He is the sweetest, kindest man I know. You do have a right to say what's on your mind (a very closed mind!). But if you said that to his face, you wouldn't have one.

Thanks for the great picture of Billy Jack. You should be more careful what you write, *jerk*. You're just jealous of him.

TINA SMITH
Salem, OR

Dear Miss Know Nothing,

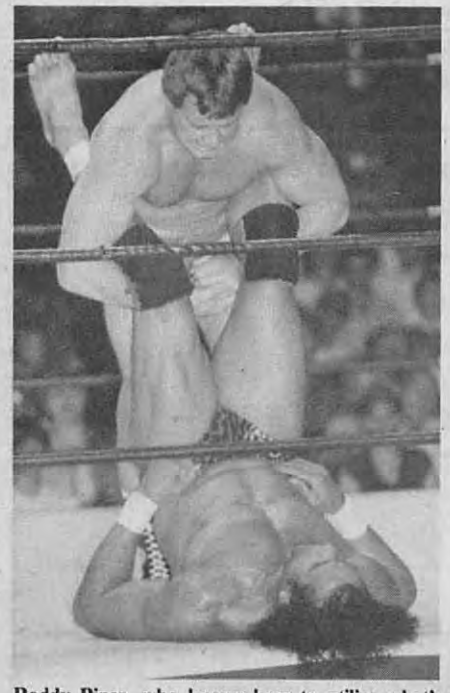
To be jealous of Billy Jack is like bread being jealous of mold. It's typical of the stormtrooper sensibility to which he appeals that in a single paragraph you say I have the right to my opinion but if I exercise that right I'll be beaten. Your commitment to free speech is equal to your appreciation of good wrestling. I'm glad you liked the photo. Billy Jack is at his best when immobile.

Hey Dan,

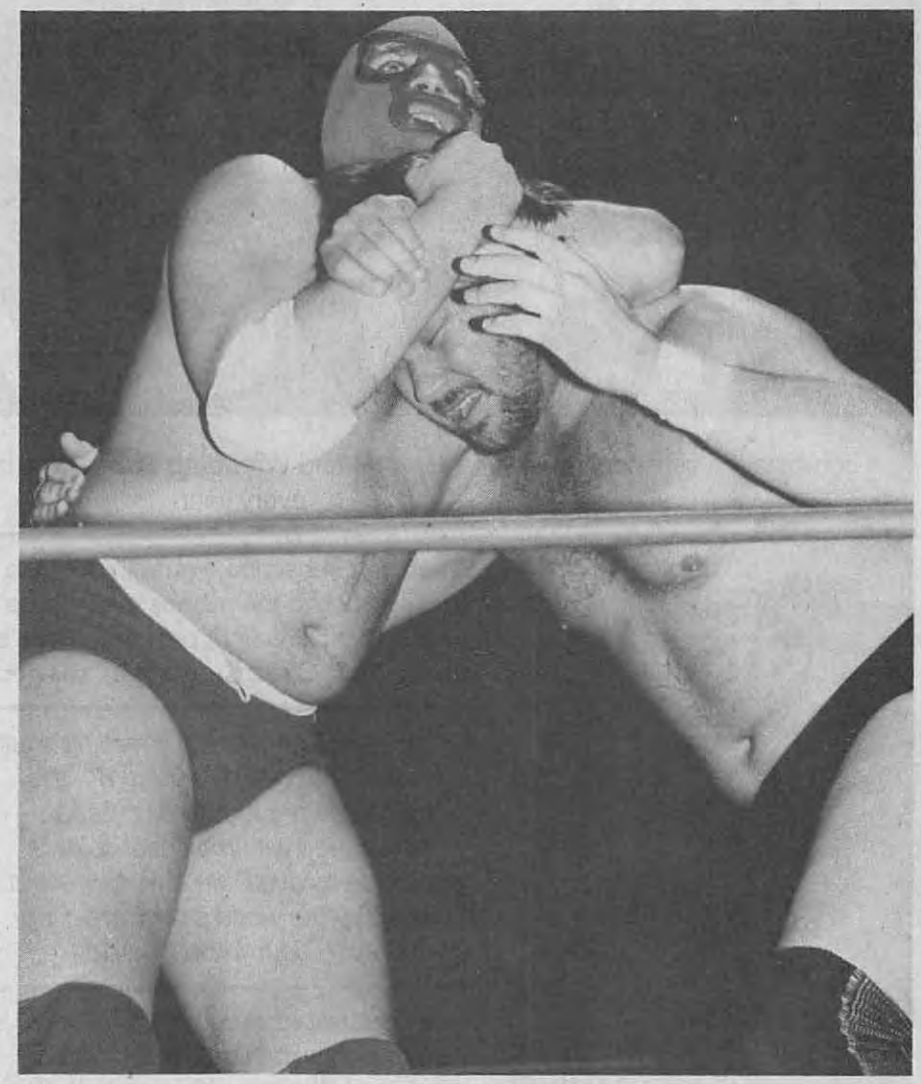
I knew you would be glad about Roddy Piper's turn to rulebreaking, because only a geek like you would approve of it.

You stay happy while you can, you jerk, because with men like Greg Valentine, who Piper had feuded with, in the area, it will not be long before Roddy hears the cheers of fans again.

BILL MILLIGAN
President of the
Anti-Shocket Fan Club
Kearny, NJ



Roddy Piper, who knows how to utilize what's available to him, will fall back, sending Jimmy Snuka's neck into the bottom rope.



Tommy Rich, holding a fleeting advantage over Ted DiBiase, is proud of the fact that he fooled the commissioners with his Mr. R disguise.

Hey President Bill,

Your understanding of Roddy Piper is comparable to the elegance of your prose. Piper is not run by the dictates of past feuds or the wishes of the fans. Roddy will do what's best for Roddy Piper and that will be his only consideration. If you are waiting for Piper to once again grovel to the wishes of the fans, you might have to wait as long as you'll have to wait to get another member of your club. I'm glad you designated yourself president. From the looks of things, when you get older you're going to designate yourself Napoleon.

Dear Dan,

One Saturday, I was watching *Championship Wrestling From Georgia.* All of a sudden, I see Tommy "Wimp" Rich shooting his mouth off about when he is coming back to Georgia. Also, he threatened Ted DiBiase. Finally, he admitted he was the man calling himself Mr. R.

I was so shocked I nearly fell on the floor. Rich is admitting to breaking the contract he signed that said if he lost to DiBiase he'd have to leave wrestling. He's proud of it! I guess you were right when you called Rich corrupt wormslime.

SANDY SIEGEL
Commack, NY

Dear Sandy,

No, Sandy, I wasn't completely right. I thought Rich would have enough integrity or shame to at least try to continue denying what everyone knew—that he was Mr. R. and wrestling illegally. I didn't believe he'd start bragging about the fact that he's corrupt wormslime. I have learned my lesson, though. I will never again underestimate the level of despicability at which Rich will wallow. □

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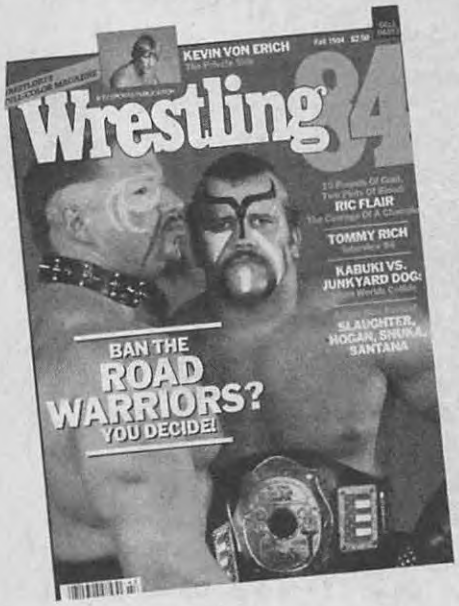

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19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

Section compiled by Craig Peters

1984 was a very special and unique year. The year began with a disturbing twinge of apprehension, for the year of George Orwell had finally arrived. Everyone was looking over their shoulders for Big Brother.

But as the year commenced, apprehension gave way to a renewed sense of patriotism. It was an Olympic year. And though the Russians boycotted the Los Angeles Summer Olympics in response to the American boycott of the 1980 games, pride swelled within the collective American breast as the United States captured 79 gold medals, including seven in freestyle wrestling, and two in Greco-Roman wrestling.

It was also an election year. Presidential candidates crisscrossed the country in search of media attention and votes. As they did so, they spoke of America's future, of a new direction for the country, and of the new patriotism gripping the nation.

That patriotism has spilled over into the professional wrestling world as well:

1984 SAW A MAN by the name of Sgt. Slaughter rise to unforeseen heights of popularity as he battled the Iranian Iron Sheik in match after match after match from New York to California. Slaughter, an ex-Marine drill sergeant, has been one of the leading patriotic forces in wrestling throughout the year, and has even made monetary appeals to the WWF fans to benefit the restoration of one of America's greatest national landmarks, The Statue of Liberty.

1984 SAW A MAN by the name of Don Kernodle join forces with Ivan Koloff to capture the NWA World tag team title. And while Kernodle professed his loyalty to Koloff and the NWA tag title for much of the year, the natural American-Russian tension began to erode their relationship. In late October, Kernodle became the victim of a brutal attack at the hands of Ivan Koloff and his nephew, Nikita Koloff. Afterward, Kernodle apologized to the American public for associating with Russians.

1984 SAW A MAN by the name of Terry Taylor receiving cheers throughout the Mid-South area as he battled Krusher Khrushchev, an American who denounced The United States and embraced Soviet ideals. Khrushchev, formerly known as Krusher Darsow, may have been indoctrinated by the sadistically vicious Nikolai Volkoff, but that didn't stop Taylor from "walking tall for America" and defeating Khrushchev in a string of matches throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

1984 SAW A MAN by the name of Dusty Rhodes defending American ideals and principles throughout the year. Not only did "The American Dream" battle Nikolai Volkoff in several brutally bloody matches in Florida, but he also embarked on his "TCB Tour '84." The TCB—which stands for "Takin' Care of Business"—tour was a symbol of unity and patriotism for all of professional wrestling to look upon and admire.

BUT 1984 WAS FAR MORE THAN A YEAR OF RENEWED PATRIOTIC FERVOR . . .

19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

NUMBERS '84

$1 paid by Jimmy Valiant to Baron Von Raschke to help get rid of Paul Jones; according to Valiant, that's all Jones is worth!

$500 fine charged to George "The Animal" Steele in Springfield, Massachusetts, when he attacked a referee after losing a match to Bob Backlund.

$1,000 offered by Jimmy Hart to anyone who can cripple Tommy "Wildfire" Rich.

$2,500 fine levied against NWA World heavyweight champion Ric Flair for striking a referee during a title defense in Texas against Kerry Von Erich.

$2,500 won by "Hercules" Kevin Kelly in a Pacific Northwest battle royal; Kelly threw two men over the top rope *simultaneously* to end the match.

$5,000 won by Killer Brooks in a Texas Brawl battle royal. Wrestlers were allowed to bring any weapon they wanted into the ring!

$8,000 valued ring jacket belonging to "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin stolen by "Gentleman" Chris Adams. It was later regained.

$10,000 earned by Kerry Von Erich for bodyslamming Kamala, The Ugandan Giant. Kamala's manager at the time, Gen. Skandor Akbar, never paid Kerry the money.

$10,000 fine in the Mid-South area to anyone bringing a 2x4, chain, steel chair, or tennis racket into the ring.

$10,000 bounty placed on Tommy Rich by Jimmy Hart payable to anyone who puts "Wildfire" out of wrestling.

$10,000 won by rookie Scott Armstrong in Pensacola, Florida, in a pole battle royal.

$10,000 fine charged to Bruiser Brody and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie for interfering in a televised match between Jim Brunzell and Rooster Griffin.

$15,000 rewarded to anyone who can bodyslam King Kong Bundy.

$15,000 won by Road Warrior Animal when he successfully bodyslammed King Kong Bundy.

$15,000 rewarded to anyone who can bodyslam Big John Studd.

$25,000 valued jewel-encrusted ring awarded to Dusty Rhodes in his best-of-three-falls victory over NWA heavyweight champion Ric Flair in the spectacular "Lords of the Ring" card, April 30 in The Orange Bowl, Miami.

$25,000 bounty placed on the head of Harley Race by Sheik Abdullah the Great.

$34,000 paid to Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Precious Paul Ellering by Ronnie Garvin for a National TV title match.

$35,000 won by Barry Windham in a St. Louis 20-man battle royal; Windham ousted Dory Funk Jr. for the win.

$50,000 won by Billy Jack when he forced Superstar Graham to submit to his full-nelson.

$50,000 won by Steve Keirn in a 17-man battle royal in Indianapolis, Indiana.

$50,000 cash vs. the Mid-South tag team title: Jim Cornette posted the money on behalf of his team, The Midnight Express, when they challenged champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express. The Midnight Express won the belts.

$100,000 won by Crusher Blackwell in a 20-man battle royal in St. Paul, Minnesota.

$100,000 cash to Dusty Rhodes as a result of his victory over Ric Flair on the "Lords of the Ring" card.

$1,000,000 in cash awarded to the winner of the Ric Flair-Dusty Rhodes main event at "Starrcade '84" in Greensboro, North Carolina, Thanksgiving night. It is the largest cash purse in professional wrestling history.

19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

YOU TRY, BUT IT'S HARD TO BE NICE WHEN YOU'RE GETTING HIT OVER THE HEAD WITH AN UMBRELLA

In the July 1984 issue of *Esquire* magazine, Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon was the subject of an anecdote told by noted sports artist LeRoy Neiman. In the next month's issue of the magazine for "Man At His Best," Vachon was the subject of a major two-

page "Sports Scenes" article. The highlight of that article was this quote by Vachon regarding wrestling fans: "The worst are the old people. A 75-year-old man cut my brother's throat from ear to ear while he was leaving the ring. An old woman attacked me with an umbrella and cut my head open. You try to be polite, but these people make you rude."

ANY GIVEN TEAM ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT . . .

The NWA World tag team title suffered from a remarkable lack of stability in 1984. From the first of the year through to press time for this issue, the title passed among the following teams in the following order: Cowboy Bob Orton & Don Kernodle, Wahoo McDaniel & Mark Youngblood, Jack & Jerry Brisco, Wahoo McDaniel & Mark Youngblood, Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle, and Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez.

NOW YOU CHEER THEM, NOW YOU DON'T

The following men were fan favorites at one time during 1984, but sometime during the year, for their own particular reasons (in some cases transitory, in others permanent), they decided that rulebreaking was the proper path to success: Chris Adams, Mike Davis, Eddie Gilbert, Chavo Guerrero, Hector Guerrero, Krusher (Darsow) Khrushchev, Wahoo McDaniel (pictured here), Angelo Mosca, Paul Orndorff, Roddy Piper, Billy Robinson, Playboy Buddy Rose, Rick Rude, Buzz Sawyer, Steve Williams, Mr. Wrestling II.

WE KNOW HE PLAYED FOR THE CHICAGO BEARS, BUT DID HE ROOT FOR THE REDSKINS OR THE RAIDERS?

Pro Football Hall of Famer Bronko Nagurski, now age 75, was a man who conquered the wrestling world as easily as he conquered the gridiron. Nagurski was a running back for the Chicago Bears from 1930 to 1937, averaging 4.6 yards per carry. He later held the NWA World title on two occasions, in 1939 and 1941. His first reign began when he defeated Lou Thesz in Houston on June 23, 1939, ending Thesz's second NWA title reign; Ray Steele ended Nagurski's first tenure as champion on March 7, 1940, in St. Louis. Nagurski's second reign came when he regained the belt from Steele on March 11, 1941, in Minneapolis; Sandor Szabo ended that reign on June 5, 1941, in St. Louis. Nagurski had the honor of tossing the coin at the start of Super Bowl XVIII in Tampa, Florida, on January 22. The Los Angeles Raiders, by the way, won the toss and the game.

THE DEVIL MADE HIM DO IT

Kevin Sullivan continued to dominate the Florida wrestling scene throughout 1984. At one time or another during the year, Sullivan's entourage had included The Purple Haze, Buzz Sawyer, Hacksaw Duggan, Superstar Graham, Fallen Angel, Lock, Aug, The Chairman Of The Board, Sir Oliver Humperdink, and several boa constrictor snakes. But the most bizarre manifestation of Sullivan's powerful influence over the people he comes in contact with was when Mike Davis, under Sullivan's spell, was convinced that he was Dusty Rhodes. Davis adopted many of the mannerisms and characteristics of "The American Dream" for several months and, with new confidence, enjoyed more success in the ring than he ever had before.

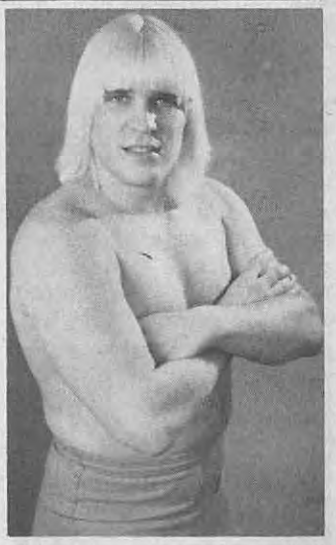
19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

AND IT MADE MAGNUM T.A. *THE* DOMINANT MID-SOUTH FORCE FOR MOST OF 1984

Magnum T.A. and his adviser, Mr. Wrestling II, were involved in a string of fascinating incidents through 1984. T.A. was named number one contender to Junkyard Dog's North American title, and was slapped in the face by Wrestling II when he refused to step down from the title shot in favor of his coach. A bitter feud erupted between T.A. and Wrestling II, who had captured the North American title from Junkyard Dog on his own. During a very violent match between T.A. and Wrestling II, T.A. captured the North American championship. But it was later learned that Wrestling II orchestrated the feud with T.A. in order to "make T.A. a better man and a better wrestler."

IT WAS A TOUGH TIME REKINDLING THE "WILDFIRE"

Tommy Rich had a hard time of it in 1984. He lost a loser leave wrestling match to Ted DiBiase, and spent the early months of the year agonizing over the ethics of a return to the sport. With help from a lawyer, Rich *did* return to the ring. In the Mid-Southern area, he teamed up with Eddie Gilbert as "Fargo's New Fabulous Ones" and received a lot of boos from fans of Steve Keirn and Stan Lane who didn't appreciate Rich and Gilbert's appropriation of the "Fabulous Ones" name. A bitter feud eventually split the team of Rich and Gilbert. But as 1984 draws to a close, "Wildfire" seems to be burning more brightly: He's returned to the Georgia area, he's formed a new tag team with partner Jerry "The King" Lawler, and he says he's ready to wage a serious challenge to either the NWA or AWA World titles.



IN MEMORY OF

David Von Erich
Vittorio "Argentina" Apollo
Brute Bernard
Lord Athol Layton
Vince McMahon Sr.
El Santo
Frank Tunney

ALPHABET CITY

R.A.T. Patrol
Master G
Mr. R
J.J. Dillon
Steve O
Jerry O
P.Y.T. Express
Magnum T.A.
JYD

BLONDS HAVE MORE FUN

- The Fabulous Blonds (in the Southwest area, early '84)
  Eric Embry & Ken Timbs
- The Fabulous Blonds (in the Southwest area, late '84)
  Eric Embry & Dan Greer
- The Hollywood Blonds (in the Georgia area)
  Rip Rogers & Ted Oates
- The Hollywood Blonds (in the Florida area)
  Dusty Woods & Ken Timbs

19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE CLOTHES *DON'T* MAKE THE MAN

Lord Al Hays co-hosts *Tuesday Night Titans,* the WWF talk show aired on USA cable network. The show has been receiving a great deal of attention, much of it directed at Hays' tuxedos. The July 26 issue of *The Long Island Catholic* didn't feel

Hays was very stylish ("unless the new fashion is to show a foot of cuff beyond the sleeves of your cheesy tux," the paper wrote). The September 17 issue of *Sports Illustrated* wasn't much kinder in its "TV/Radio" column: "Lord Alfred Hays is a syrupy British wimp who wears frilly tuxedos of the type fashionable in Las Vegas in the late '60s."

HE'S NOT AS CUTE AS MARTHA QUINN, BUT HE'S *DEFINITELY* MORE MACHO THAN ALAN HUNTER

On Tuesday night, September 25, WWF champion Hulk Hogan appeared as guest VJ on MTV Music Television. Appearing with him were World Women's wrestling champion Wendi Richter and rock superstar Cyndi Lauper. In addition to yet another replay of Hogan's January 23 title victory over The Iron Sheik in New York's Madison Square Garden, MTV viewers during Hogan's hour as VJ also saw videos by Van Halen, Prince and the Revolution, Huey Lewis and the News, Cyndi Lauper, Loverboy, ZZ Top, Rod Stewart, and Def Leppard.

"THEY CAN TAKE THE BELT AWAY FROM ME, BUT THEY CAN'T TAKE MY TITLE!"

A new wrestling program, *Pro Wrestling USA,* made its television debut on New York's WPIX Channel 11 on September 29. The program, which is now also being shown in Japan, is significant because it features top stars from *both* the NWA and the AWA. And fans are talking about the fact that *Pro Wrestling USA* has brought Bob Backlund into the public eye once again. Backlund is claiming that although he no longer wears the WWF belt, he still feels as if he's

the champion. "In the hearts of the fans, I'm still champion," he told blow-by-blow announcer Gordon Solie.

WHERE DOES KING KONGA FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

The Kingdom of Tonga, in the western South Pacific, is 270 square miles smaller than New York City, but it certainly has its share of competitors in wrestling. King Tonga, The Tonga Kid, and Tonga John (pictured above) have all drawn attention this year—particularly The Tonga Kid, who is becoming involved in a bitter feud in the WWF with Roddy Piper.

BET HE CAN'T LEAP TOO HIGH WITH THE ARMOR ON!

"Leaping" Lanny Poffo wanted to be known as "Sir Lanny Poffo, The First Knight of the Squared Circle" in 1984. Towards this end he had been wearing a full suit of armor to the ring on many occasions, and handed out scrolls to fans at ringside. Those scrolls (which Lanny wrote himself) read:

Look back through the annals of history
And the wrestling Hall of Fame
Men from all nations with courage to spare
Who struggled to carve out a name

Now compare these high standards of valour
To those chivalrous knights of yore
With bravery as staunch as their armour
Their glory both legend and lore

My medieval connection with wrestling
Relives that magnificent past
Though mindless skeptics may snicker and scoff
The winner is he who laughs last

19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

CHAMPIONSHIP CHANGES

The following is a list of some of the year's major title changes:

January 6: Harley Race wins the Missouri State title from David Von Erich.

January 23: Hulk Hogan defeats The Iron Sheik for the WWF title in New York's Madison Square Garden.

January 30: Angelo Mosca Jr. beats Ivan Koloff for the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title.

February 11: Tito Santana wins the WWF Intercontinental title from Magnificent Muraco in Boston.

February 22: Jumbo Tsuruta defeats Nick Bockwinkel in Tokyo for the AWA World title.

March 16: The Midnight Express, Dennis Condrey & Bobby Eaton, defeat Mr. Wrestling II & Magnum T.A. for the Mid-South tag team title. In that match, Wrestling II walked away from ring, leaving T.A. to battle the Express by himself.

March 18: Ivan Koloff defeats Angelo Mosca Jr. for the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title.

March 31: Billy Jack wins the Florida State title from Kendo Nagasaki in a cage match.

April 15: Manny Fernandez & Al Perez defeat The Fabulous Blonds, Eric Embry & Ken Timbs, for the Southwest area tag team championship.

April 17: Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis win the WWF tag team title from Rocky Johnson & Tony Atlas.

April 21: Rick Steamboat wins the U.S. title from Dick Slater.

April 22: Angelo Mosca Jr. regains the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title from Ivan Koloff.

May 4: Brad Armstrong wins the National title from The Spoiler.

May 6: Perhaps the most significant day all year for professional wrestling: four big title changes! (1) Kerry Von Erich wins the NWA World title from Ric Flair in front of 43,517 fans in Texas Stadium; (2) Crusher & Baron Von Raschke defeat Ken Patera & Crusher Blackwell for the AWA World tag team title; (3) King Kong Bundy & Masked Superstar beat The Road Warriors for the National tag team title; (4) Iceman Parsons & Buck Zumhofe capture the World Class tag team title from the Super Destroyers, also in Texas Stadium.

May 13: Another big day, as two major title changes take place: (1) Rick Martel defeats Jumbo Tsuruta for the AWA World title in St. Paul, Minnesota; (2) Magnum T.A. wins his second North American title by defeating Mr. Wrestling II.

May 20: The Road Warriors defeat Junkyard Dog & Sweet Brown Sugar in the final round of a tournament in Atlanta's Omni to determine new National tag team champions.

May 24: Ric Flair captures his third NWA World title when he regains the belt from Kerry Von Erich in Yokosuka City, Japan.

June 10: Superstar Graham wins the Florida title from Billy Jack.

July 4: Jerry Oates & Ronnie Garvin defeat The Road Warriors for the National tag team title.

July 14: Hector & Chavo Guerrero win the U.S. tag team title from Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo.

July 23: Wendi Richter ends the longest title reign in wrestling history (27 years) when, with rock superstar Cyndi Lauper in her corner, she defeats The Fabulous Moolah in New York's Madison Square Garden for the World Women's title.

July 29: Scott McGhee wins the Florida heavyweight title from Superstar Billy Graham.

August 4: Mike Von Erich captures his first major championship when he defeats Gino Hernandez for the World Class American heavyweight title.

August 25: The Road Warriors win their first world title when they defeat Crusher & Baron Von Raschke for the AWA tag team belts at The Showboat Pavilion in Las Vegas.

August 29: Shortly after entering the Carolinas, Cowboy Ron Bass wins the Mid-Atlantic title from Angelo Mosca Jr.

September 3: Gino Hernandez, with some help from his "bodyguard," Nicola Roberts, defeats Mike Von Erich for the World Class American title. Von Erich suffers a shoulder injury as a result of the match. Fighting back pain, he interferes in a cage match later that evening and helps his brothers Kerry and Kevin defeat The Fabulous Freebirds for the World Class six-man title.

September 20: The Hollywood Blonds, Rip Rogers & Ted Oates, defeat the team of Jerry Oates & Ronnie Garvin for the National tag team title.

September 24: Greg Valentine defeats Tito Santana for the WWF Intercontinental title in London, Ontario.

October 2: Krusher Khrushchev & Jim Neidhardt win the U.S. tag team title from Hector Guerrero & Cocoa Samoa, who was substituting for an injured Chavo Guerrero.

October 6: Wahoo McDaniel defeats Manny Fernandez in the final round of a tournament to determine the new U.S. champion.

October 11: Ronnie Garvin wins the National title from Ted DiBiase in Baltimore.

October 14: Jesse Barr wins the Florida title from Scott McGhee in a two-out-of-three falls no-disqualification match.

October 20: Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez defeat Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle for the NWA World tag team title inside a steel cage in Greensboro, North Carolina.

October 24: Ernie Ladd wins the North American heavyweight title from Magnum T.A.

19 THE YEAR IN REVIEW 84

PROOF POSITIVE THAT THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF THE FANS *CAN* MAKE A DIFFERENCE

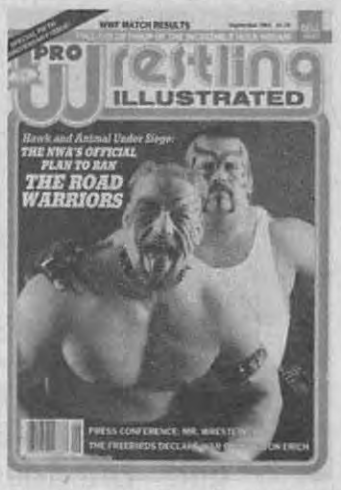
On July 14, the WWF took over the NWA's TV time on Atlanta SuperStation WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling.* Hundreds of phone calls from irate viewers jammed the WTBS switchboard and begged to have Gordon Solie and the Georgia area wrestlers returned to the air. WWF head Vince McMahon, commenting on that flood of complaints in an article in the *Atlanta Constitution,* responded: "We'll show those complainers the difference between a major league and a minor league production, given time." As a result of the fans' complaints, however, the NWA was reinstated on WTBS at a new time: 9 a.m. (E.S.T.) on Saturdays.

A NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS, A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

It was the first card of NWA-sanctioned wrestling in the New York area in 20 years. The "Night of Champions," held in New Jersey's Brendan Byrne Arena in the Meadowlands sports complex on May 29, boasted more title matches on one card than on any other wrestling card in recent memory. Eight titles were on the line that night: the National TV title, the NWA World junior heavyweight championship, the All-Asian championship, the NWA World tag team belts, the Pacific heavyweight championship, the National tag team title, the WWC Universal heavyweight championship, and—in a spectacular main event—Ric Flair successfully defended his NWA World title against Rick Steamboat.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

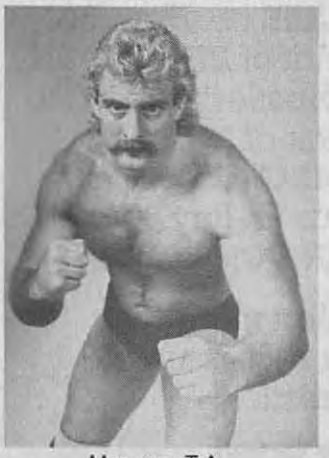
Pro Wrestling Illustrated celebrated its fifth anniversary in 1984. The September 1984 issue featured a special look back at wrestling during the *PWI* years, plus a cover story on what may well have been the most volatile issue of the entire year: the attempted NWA ban of The Road Warriors. The issue was placed before the fans in the "You Decide" section of the Fall 1984 issue of *Wrestling 84,* but the question of whether the ban would have been successful became meaningless when Precious Paul Ellering brought the Warriors to the AWA. Ellering led Hawk and Animal to their first world tag team title as they defeated the team of Baron Von Raschke and The Crusher for the championship belts August 25 at the Showboat Pavilion in Las Vegas.



FORCES TO BE RECKONED WITH IN 1985

The Rock 'n' Roll Express

Nikita Koloff



Magnum T.A.

The Fabulous Ones

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler

GREG VALENTINE wins **TITO SANTANA'S** WWF Intercontinental title—but does he deserve to be champion?

Read about the feast of blood and violence between **THE ROAD WARRIORS** and **THE KIWI SHEEPHERDERS**

PLUS . . .

RONNIE GARVIN wins the National title from **TED DiBIASE** . . . How **RIC FLAIR** broke the spirit of **BILLY JACK** . . . Are American wrestlers too soft to survive the attack of **NIKITA KOLOFF**? . . . **MAGNUM T.A.** interviewed . . . Our "X-Ray" panel examines **KEVIN VON ERICH**

All this and much more . . . in the February 1985 issue of *The Wrestler*

ON SALE NOW!

Inside Wrestling

Read all about the "new" **TOMMY RICH** and why "Wildfire's" future looks brighter than ever

It's brutality in Baltimore as **RIC FLAIR** and **HARLEY RACE** battle it out inside the steel cage

PLUS . . .

Boogie Woogie Man **JIMMY VALIANT'S** mission: Stop "Superbrat" **TULLY BLANCHARD** . . . **CHRIS ADAMS** is grilled in a "Hotseat" interview . . . Find out how **JESSE BARR** traded self-respect for the Florida title . . . **PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING** and **LARRY ZBYSZKO** face off "One on One"

All this and much more . . . in the February 1985 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

ON SALE NOW!

THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED ACHIEVEMENT '84 AWARDS

TWO MONTHS AGO, in the January 1985 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* we polled wrestling's true experts—you, the fans—to determine who, in your eyes, are the greatest wrestlers of 1984.

Your response to the *PWI* year-end fan poll has been remarkable in the past. This year, we're happy to report, your response has been the best ever.

Over 55,000 ballots flooded our offices, and the task of sorting out the votes and determining the winners you chose was a monumental one. But it was also very enjoyable. Because in addition to your ballots, many of you offered your own personal opinions of various wrestlers, managers, and matches in 1984—and sometimes even of the year-end poll itself.

One letter, from Hugh Moire of St. Louis, read:

I always look forward to the March issue of your magazine. It's a very special time for professional wrestling when the fans receive the opportunity to vote for their favorites in all the categories. And that's as it should be: the fans choosing the best of the year. Because without us fans, wrestling would be nowhere. I don't want to insult you: Nobody does a better job of covering wrestling than the folks at PWI, *but then again, nobody but the fans should be choosing who wins the year-end awards. And when the fans voice their opinion, everyone in the wrestling world sits up and takes notice.*

We agree. The year-end achievement awards have become an important barometer in the wrestling world. They not only measure the success of wrestling's top names over the past 12 months, but they also provide an important overview of the history of professional wrestling by listing the "Past Winners" for each category. In addition, glancing over the list of this year's winners and runners-up gives one a suggestion of where wrestling may be headed in the *next* decade.

On the pages that follow, we present the winners in each category, the top three runners-up, and the vote totals as of press time. (Each year, votes continue to flood our offices for weeks after this issue goes to press.)

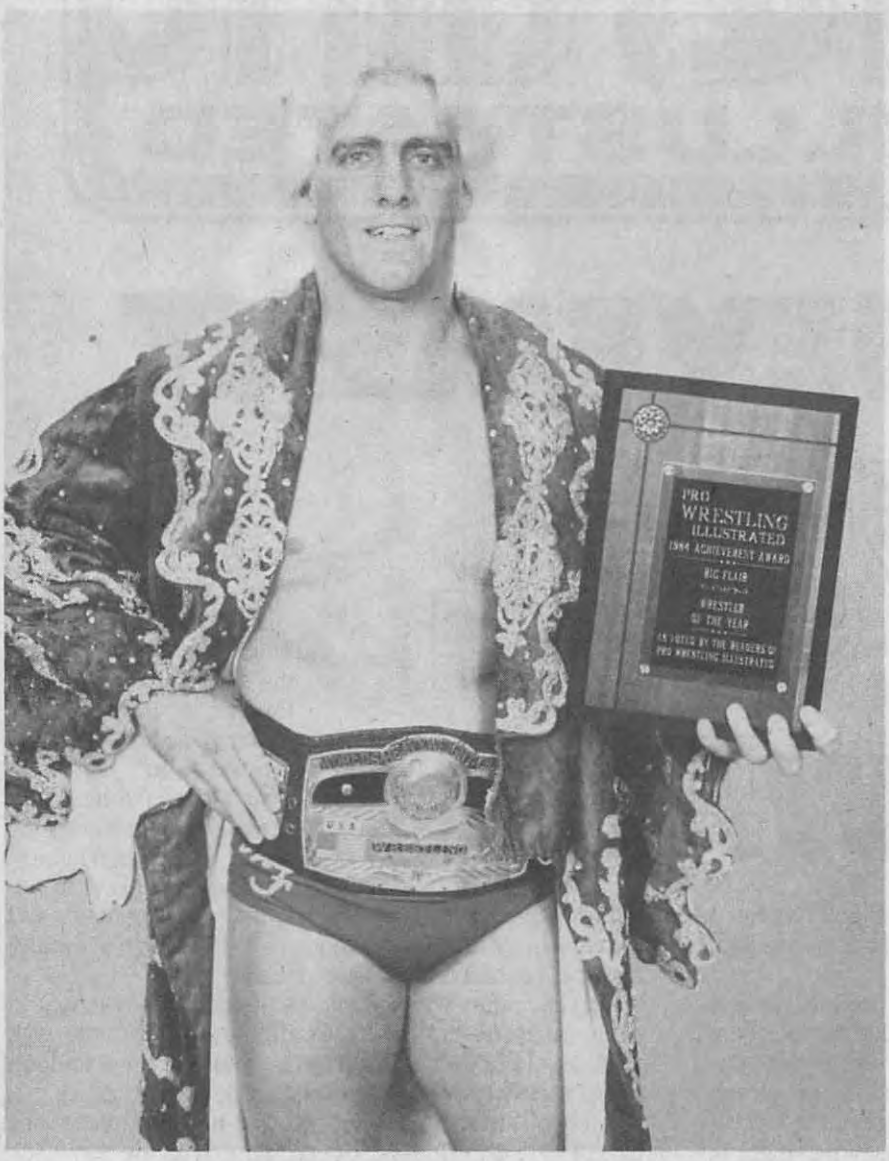
A bit of history: You'll notice that in a few categories the list of "Past Winners" doesn't stretch all the way back to 1972, when the first year-end awards were determined. This is because the award for Most Improved Wrestler of the Year was created in 1978, while the first *PWI* Editors' Award was presented in 1981. It should also be noted that prior to 1981, the results of the year-end fan poll were presented in our now-defunct sister publication *Sports Review Wrestling Annual.*

With all that said, we can now move on to the categories and the winners. Frankly, there were few surprise winners this year in any category. But that certainly doesn't diminish the significance of these awards. Wrestling's experts—the fans—have spoken. And whether the award winners agree or disagree with your own personal selections, the collective decision of the fans is now final. Your voice has been heard.

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

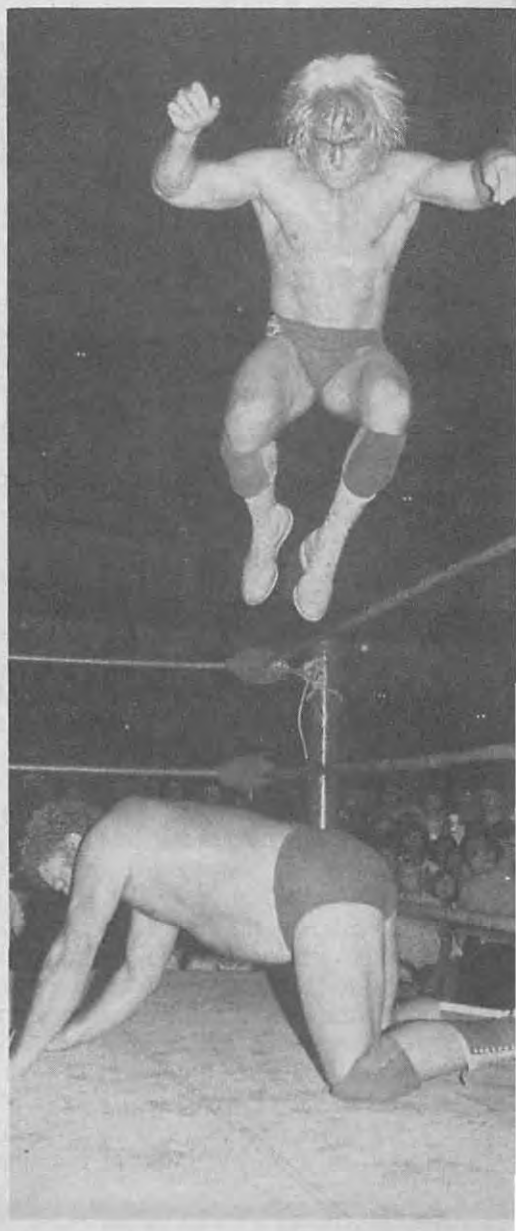
RIC FLAIR

12,965 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: Harley Race
1982: Bob Backlund
1981: Ric Flair
1980: Bob Backlund
1979: Harley Race
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Dusty Rhodes
1976: Terry Funk
1975: Mr. Wrestling II
1974: Bruno Sammartino
1973: Jack Brisco
1972: Pedro Morales



IF THERE WAS any surprise winner in the Achievement '84 balloting, it would have to be in this category. The voting for Wrestler of the Year was closer than in any other category; only 224 votes separate the winner—Ric Flair—from the first runner-up. And only 1,620 votes separate Flair's vote total from that of the third runner-up.

Those vote totals become more interesting when one realizes that the number of "votes for others" is less for Wrestler of the Year than for any other category. Wrestling fans were clear about who the top four names in the sport were in 1984.

"Ric Flair had a tremendous year," wrote Steve Jackson of St. Louis. "Sure, he lost the title to Kerry Von Erich, but he won it back again three weeks later in Japan. He was determined to regain the title, the mark of a true champion. Aside from those three weeks, he held the greatest title in all of wrestling for the entire year,

Opposite left: A blood-soaked Flair leaps from the turnbuckles at 1979 and 1983's Wrestler of the Year, Harley Race. Above: Flair has his hand raised in victory by referee Joe Higuchi after regaining the NWA World title from Kerry Von Erich in May.

and defended it against the stiffest competition in all of wrestling.

"But more than his activities in the ring, I voted for Flair because of his activities out of the ring," Jackson continued. "Someone can look at Flair and be turned off by his boasting, by the way he carries himself, and by his pure ego. But I look at Flair and I don't see that. I see a man who is supremely proud of what he does in life. I see a man who knows what he wants and isn't afraid to go out and get it. I see a man who, ring tactics aside, is a terrific ambassador for professional wrestling. I see the Wrestler of the Year."

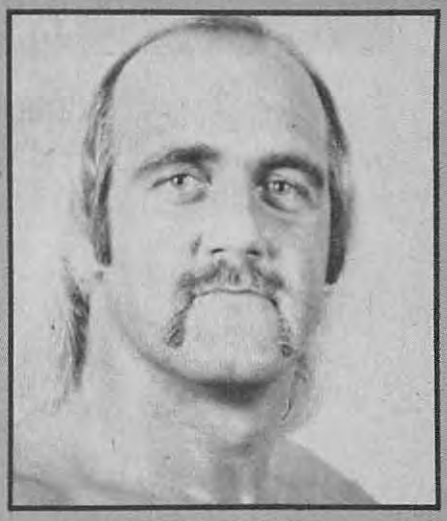
First runner-up: It's interesting to note that Hulk Hogan received more votes for Wrestler of the Year than he did for Most Popular Wrestler. While Hogan's popularity is undeniable, it is apparent that there are fans who may have their personal favorites in wrestling, but who also clearly recognize the achievements that have made "Hulkamania" the fastest growing movement in wrestling today.

Second runner-up: A strong second-place finish for Kerry Von Erich shows that wrestling fans aren't taking his victory over Ric Flair lightly. Indeed, though he only held the NWA World title for just under three weeks, Von Erich's win was a major accomplishment, and many fans are looking for him to regain that title in 1985.

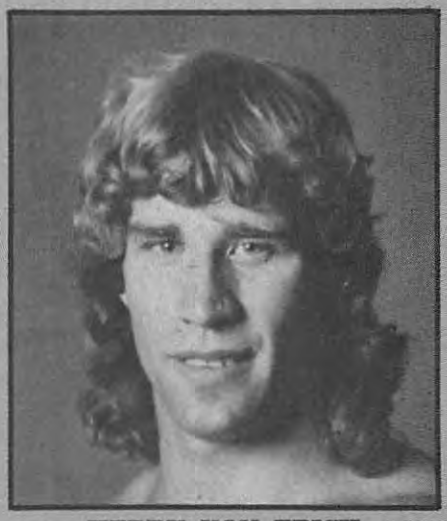
Third runner-up: Rick Martel realized his dream of a world title in 1984 when he defeated Jumbo Tsuruta for the AWA championship. But Martel has done more than simply win a world title. By defending the belt against scientific and rulebreaking opponents throughout the AWA, Martel has restored dignity and honor to a title that was tainted under the lengthy reigns of Nick Bockwinkel.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Dusty Rhodes, Kevin Von Erich, Sgt. Slaughter, and Magnum T.A.

RUNNERS-UP



HULK HOGAN
12,741 votes



KERRY VON ERICH
11,963 votes

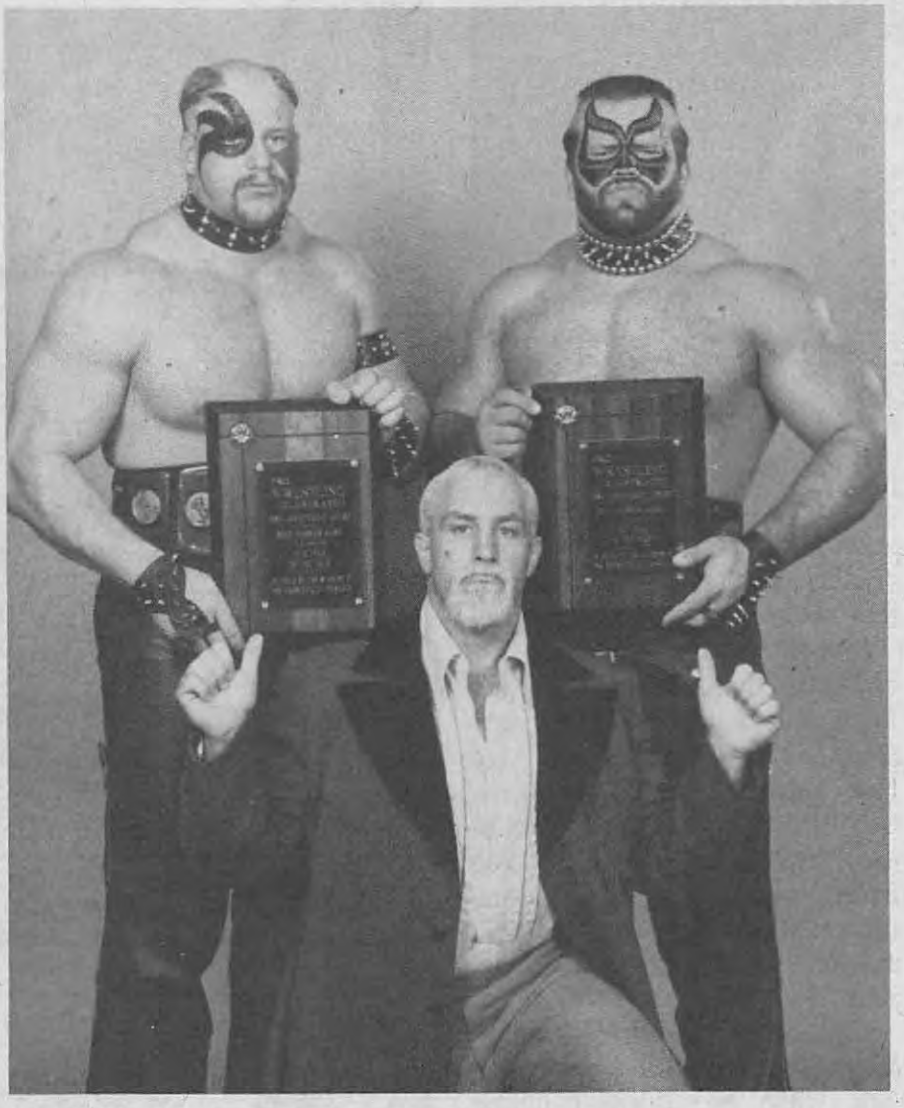
RICK MARTEL
11,345 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
6,923

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE ROAD WARRIORS

13,984 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: The Road Warriors
1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
1981: The Fabulous Freebirds
1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens
1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana
1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones
1977: Gene & Ole Anderson
1976: The Executioners
1975: Gene & Ole Anderson
1974: Jim & Johnny Valiant
1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens
1972: Bruiser & Crusher

SINCE THE INCEPTION of the year-end awards in 1972, no tag team has ever won the Tag Team of the Year award twice, much less twice in a row.

But The Road Warriors are an exception, not only in the year-end poll in particular, but in the world of professional wrestling in general.

The Road Warriors spent much of the early part of the year based in the Georgia area, where they held the National tag team championship. In mid-1984, it was learned that the NWA was considering banning the Warriors from competition. Precious Paul Ellering took no chances: He moved his team to the AWA, where they quickly captured the AWA World tag team title from Crusher and Baron Von Raschke.

"The plain fact of the matter is that there is no other team in professional wrestling that can beat The Road Warriors," wrote Gus Lester of Atlanta. "Sure, there have been teams who have beaten the Warriors: Brett and Buzz Sawyer, for example, or Masked Superstar and King Kong Bundy. But those matches were complete flukes.

"Until there is a team in wrestling that can beat the Warriors repeatedly, or until Precious Paul Ellering decides to split the team up and send them into singles competition, or until either Hawk or Animal gets grossly out of shape and gains 100 pounds or something, then it looks to me like The Road Warriors will continue to be Tag Team of the Year—for 1983, 1984, and many years to come."

First runners-up: Once again, the Von Erichs are first runners-up in this category, receiving nearly 1,700 more votes than they did last year, but falling shy of winning by about 1,000 ballots. The precision teamwork displayed by Kerry, Kevin, and Mike, their enormous popularity throughout the country, and their persistence in regaining the World Class six-man tag team title from The Fabulous Freebirds and running Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts out of Texas, all contributed to their strong finish again this year.

Second runners-up: Steve Keirn and Stan Lane, The Fabulous Ones, held the Mid-Southern tag team title during 1984 and are cur-

rently competing in the AWA area. It is a rare team that displays the courage necessary to take on The Road Warriors for a sustained period of time, but The Fabulous Ones are one of those rare teams. And there are plenty of fans of the AWA who think that Keirn and Lane will be successful in capturing the Warriors' tag team belts; certainly it is the toughest challenge of their careers thus far.

As rare as it is that a Road Warrior will get in trouble, he can always count on his partner to help him. Warrior Hawk springs into action as Warrior Animal takes some punishment from Blackjack Lanza.

Third runners-up: Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, currently hold the Mid-Southern tag team championship. Like The Fabulous Ones, they are young, agile, and exciting to watch. Along with The Fabulous Ones, The Rock 'n' Roll Express are helping to set new standards for tag team excellence in the 1980s. Although they have only been wrestling together for less than two years, Morton and Gibson are one of *the* teams to watch in 1985.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Brett & Buzz Sawyer, Chavo & Hector Guerrero, Rocky Johnson & Tony Atlas, and Iceman Parsons & Buck Zumhofe.

RUNNERS-UP

THE VON ERICHS
12,975 votes

THE FABULOUS ONES
10,890 votes

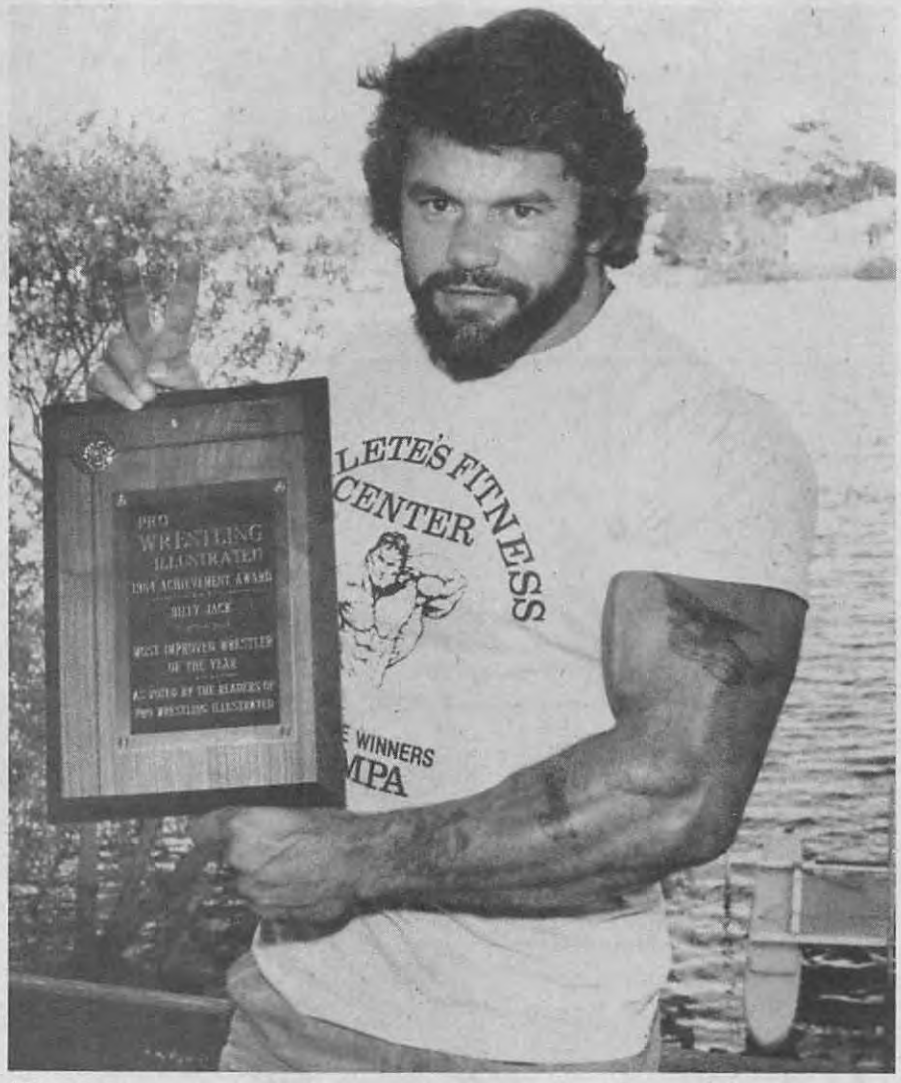
THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
10,237 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
8,598

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

BILLY JACK

11,762 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer
1982: Barry Windham
1981: Kevin Sullivan
1980: Tony Atlas
1979: Tommy Rich
1978: Dino Bravo

Billy Jack hoists Kendo Nagasaki into the air as he were a 100-pound barbell. Billy won the Florida belt from Nagasaki in a March cage match.

IT WAS A very close race, but "The People's Choice" Billy Jack managed to edge out the close competition to snag the award for Most Improved Wrestler of the Year.

At the beginning of 1984, Billy Jack was known to a relatively small but vocal community of wrestling fans in the Pacific Northwest. As PNW heavyweight champion, Billy Jack impressed the Northwest area fans with his strength, courage, sportsmanship, and remarkable physique.

It didn't take long for the word to get out and for the world to learn about "The People's Choice." Billy left Oregon for Florida, where he met his lifetime idol Dusty Rhodes. He captured the Florida heavyweight title from Kendo Nagasaki. He defeated Superstar Graham in a $50,000 challenge match pitting full-nelson against full-nelson.

And in the process, he became an international superstar.

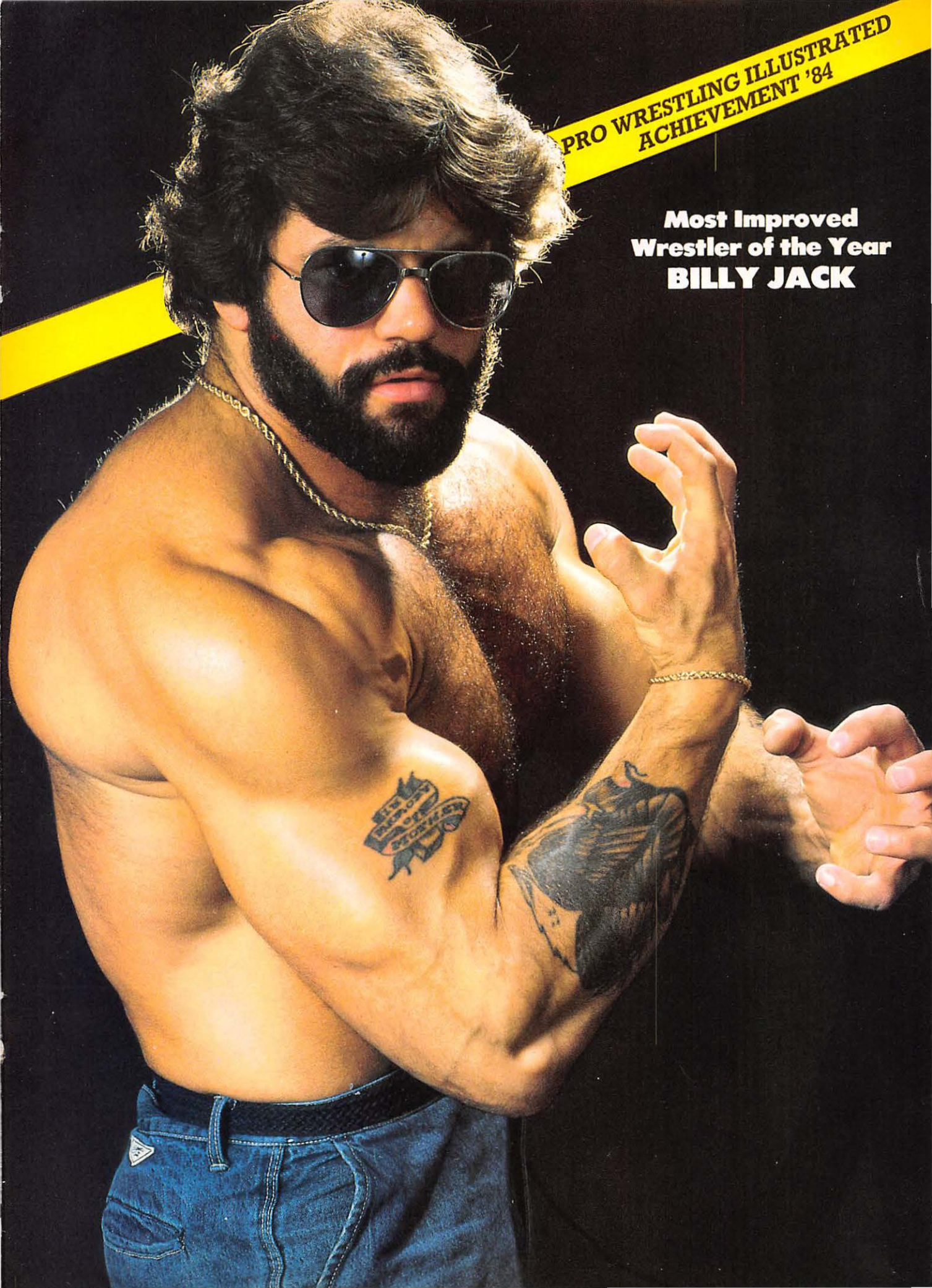
"I'm so proud to see the success that Billy Jack has achieved in 1984," wrote Natalie Rudolph of Portland, Oregon. "I've followed his career for years, and I've seen several of his NWA World title matches against Ric Flair.

"You know, it's kind of sad," Rudolph continued. "I recently heard that Billy was on his way to the WWF area. That upsets me a little bit, becaus I always wanted to see that NWA belt around Billy's waist. I know that he could defeat Ric Flair. It was only a matter of time. Now he'll never have that chance for the greatest title in all of wrestling. It's a shame."

What is *not* a shame is the remarkable success Billy Jack has met with in 1984. The honor of Most Improved Wrestler of the Year is one that "The People's Choice" worked very hard for. He's earned it.

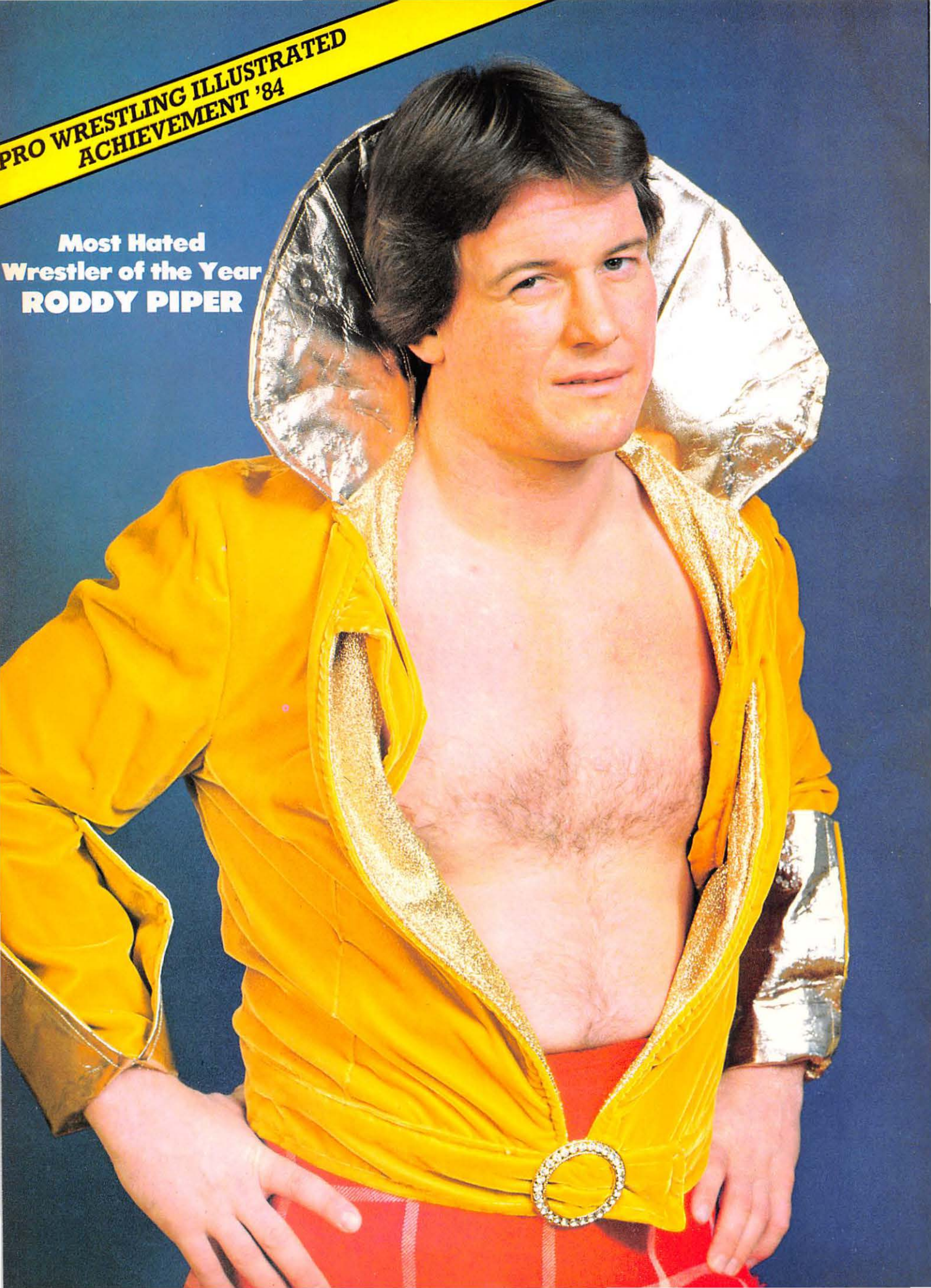
First runner-up: Another 329

(Continued on page 39)


PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
ACHIEVEMENT '84
Most Improved
Wrestler of the Year
BILLY JACK

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
ACHIEVEMENT '84
Match of the Year
KERRY VON ERICH DEFEATS RIC FLAIR
FOR THE NWA WORLD TITLE

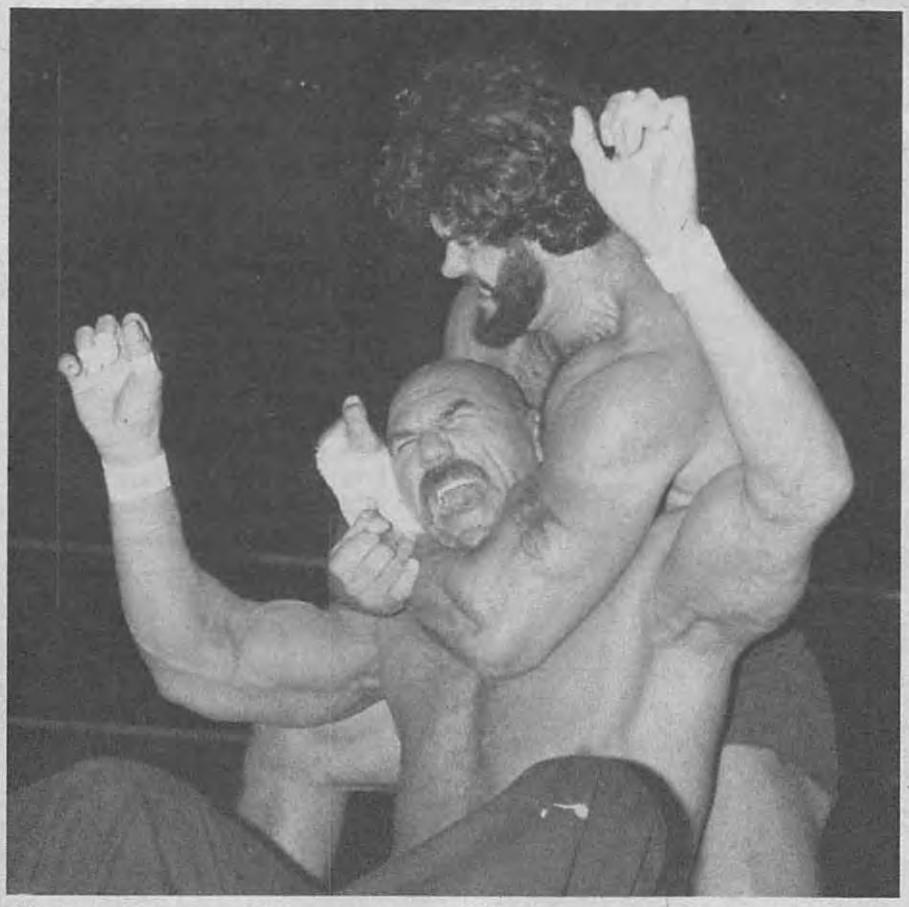
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
ACHIEVEMENT '84



Most Hated
Wrestler of the Year
RODDY PIPER

MOST IMPROVED

(Continued from page 34)



Billy feud with Superstar Graham pitted wrestling's premier muscleman of the 1980s against wrestling's premier muscleman of the 1970s.

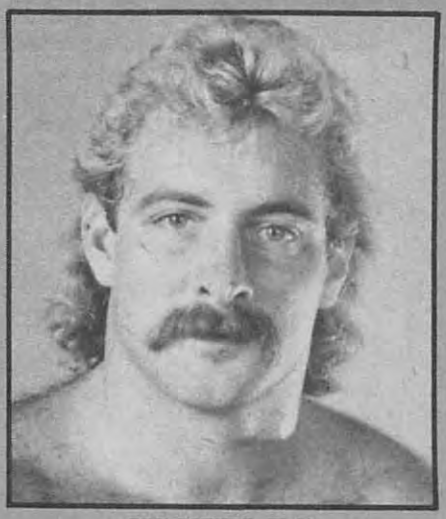
votes and Magnum T.A. would have captured the award in this category. Indeed, Magnum T.A. has had a year every bit as remarkable as Billy Jack's. He began the year as one half of the Mid-South tag team championship team along with Mr. Wrestling II. Later in the year, amidst a controversial feud with Mr. Wrestling II, Magnum T.A. captured his second North American heavyweight title. As 1984 drew to a close, Magnum T.A. was headed for the Mid-Atlantic area where he says he is looking for a shot at U.S. heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel.

Second runner-up: Previously known primarily for his success as a tag team wrestler, Rick Martel succeeded in capturing the AWA World heavyweight title from Jumbo Tsuruta in May. In the months that followed, he brought great honor and respect to that title, defending against both scientific and rulebreaking challengers. Happily, Martel shows no signs of reversing that trend in 1985.

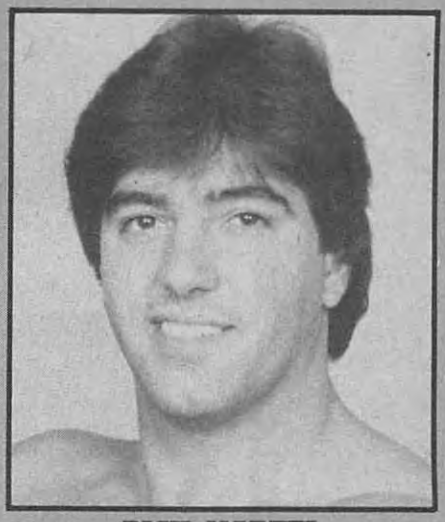
Third runner-up: A large volume of ballots for Ronnie Garvin were received by our office immediately following Garvin's victory over Ted DiBiase in Baltimore for the National heavyweight title. Garvin also held the National TV title for much of the early part of 1984, and one half of the National tag team title with Jerry Oates later in the year after upsetting The Road Warriors.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Tito Santana, Kevin Von Erich, Tully Blanchard, and Terry Taylor. □

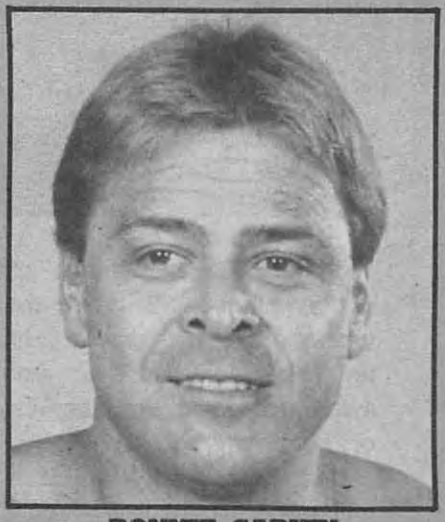
RUNNERS-UP



MAGNUM T.A
11,434 votes



RICK MARTEL
10,982 votes



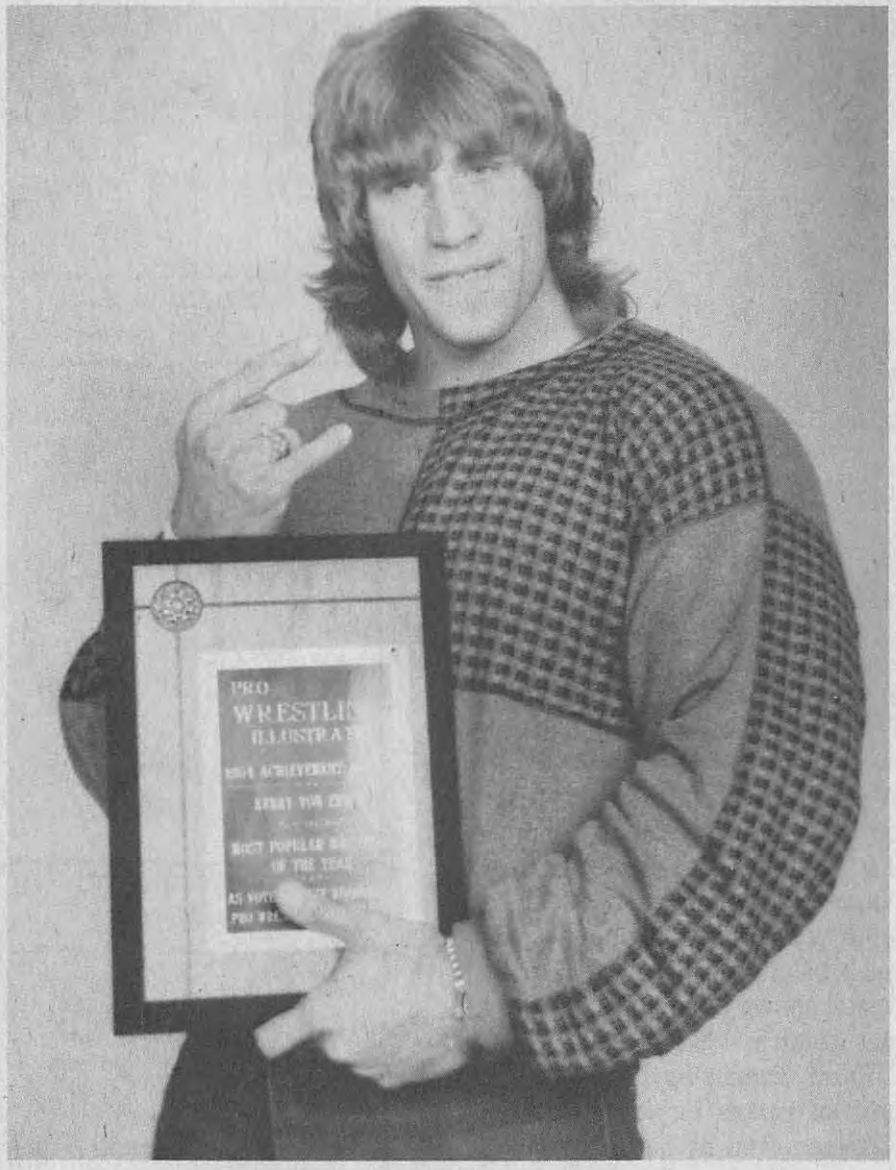
RONNIE GARVIN
9,938 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
11,348

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

KERRY VON ERICH

12,720 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: Jimmy Snuka
1982: Andre the Giant
1981: Tommy Rich
1980: Mr. Wrestling II
1979: Dusty Rhodes
1978: Dusty Rhodes
1977: Andre the Giant
1976: Wahoo McDaniel
1975: Mil Mascaras
1974: Billy Robinson
1973: Chief Jay Strongbow
1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)

IT'S HARD TO believe, but it's true: Since 1972, when the first year-end fan poll was conducted, no Von Erich has ever won the award for Most Popular Wrestler of the Year.

Until now. And Von Erich fans will agree that for Kerry Von Erich, this official recognition as wrestling's most popular athlete is long overdue.

There's no question that Kerry Von Erich's brief but highly popular tenure as NWA World heavyweight champion this May contributed heavily to his success in this category.

"I wasn't lucky enough to be able to attend the Texas Stadium match where Kerry won the NWA World title from Ric Flair," wrote Nancy Carson of San Antonio, Texas, "but when I saw a photo of him in your magazine with the World belt around his waist, I almost cried. Kerry's been my favorite wrestler for a long time, and he really deserved that title. The only sadness about it was that he didn't have the title longer than three weeks."

But it would be unfair to say that Kerry's victory over Flair was the sole reason for his winning this award. The Von Erichs have long been the most popular family in professional wrestling, and their success in the ring has always provided them with a solid core of

Opposite left: A month after losing the NWA World title to Ric Flair, Kerry Von Erich battles the champion in St. Louis. Above: Arriving in Orlando, Florida, for one of his few defenses of the NWA title, Kerry is mobbed by fans.

support among fans in Texas. And though a large majority of Kerry's votes did come from Texas, the ballots also indicated a wide base of support in the Midwest and the Northeast. Kerry's win over Flair, nevertheless, *was* the push he needed to bring him over the top in the vote totals . . . and in the wrestling history books.

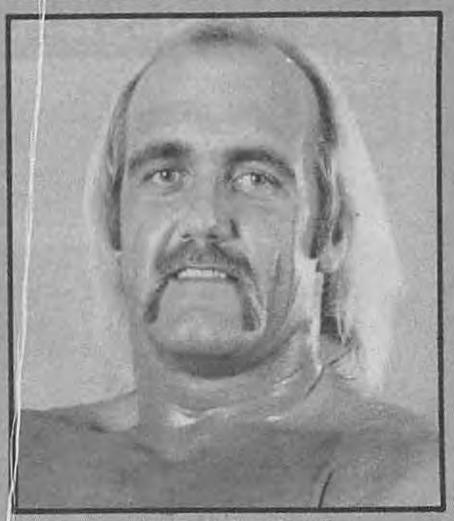
First runner-up: Hulk Hogan stormed into the WWF in December, and in less than a month, he had captured the WWF heavyweight title from The Iron Sheik to the combined tune of Survival's "Eye of the Tiger" and the screams of 20,000 enthusiastic fans. That enthusiasm spread throughout the wrestling world as Hogan traveled thousands of miles each week to defend his title against such men as David Shultz, Cowboy Bob Orton, Jesse Ventura, and Big John Studd. "Hulkmania!" has spread throughout the nation, and Hogan's legions of fans responded to the year-end poll with enough support for the WWF champ to make him a strong first runner-up.

Second runner-up: "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes took up the mantle of patriotism once again in 1984 and embarked on his TCB Tour '84. TCB—Takin' Care of Business—stood as Dusty's symbol of unity and sportsmanship. Always a strong finisher in this category (Dusty is the only wrestler to have won Most Popular Wrestler of the Year honors two years in a row—in 1978 and 1979), Dusty's Army was only about 2,300 votes shy of making their hero the winner again in 1984.

Third runner-up: 1984 was a year filled with patriotism and enthusiasm. For Sgt. Slaughter, it was perhaps his best year ever. A giant feud with The Iron Sheik won him tens of thousands of new fans. And if Hulk Hogan's enormous popularity hadn't split the WWF fans' vote, Slaughter might have been the runaway winner in this category.

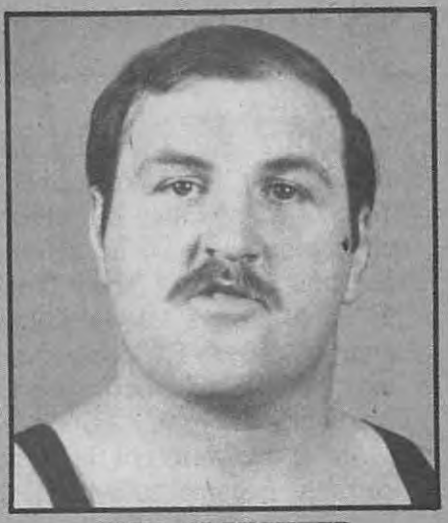
Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Kevin Von Erich, Billy Jack, Jimmy Valiant, and Tito Santana.

RUNNERS-UP



HULK HOGAN
11,567 votes

DUSTY RHODES
10,468 votes



SGT. SLAUGHTER
9,856 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
11,934

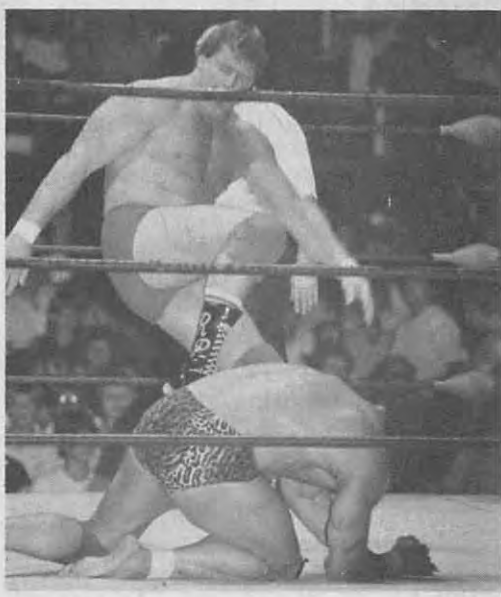
MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

RODDY PIPER

14,832 votes

PAST WINNERS

1983: Greg Valentine
1982: Ted DiBiase
1981: Ken Patera
1980: Larry Zbyszko
1979: Greg Valentine
1978: Ric Flair
1977: Ken Patera
1976: Stan Hansen
1975: Greg Valentine
1974: The Great Mephisto
1973: Superstar Graham
1972: The Sheik



RODDY PIPER'S SELECTION as Most Hated Wrestler of the Year was probably a foregone conclusion following his senseless and brutal attack of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka on a televised installment of "Piper's Pit," broadcast on most WWF televised wrestling programs.

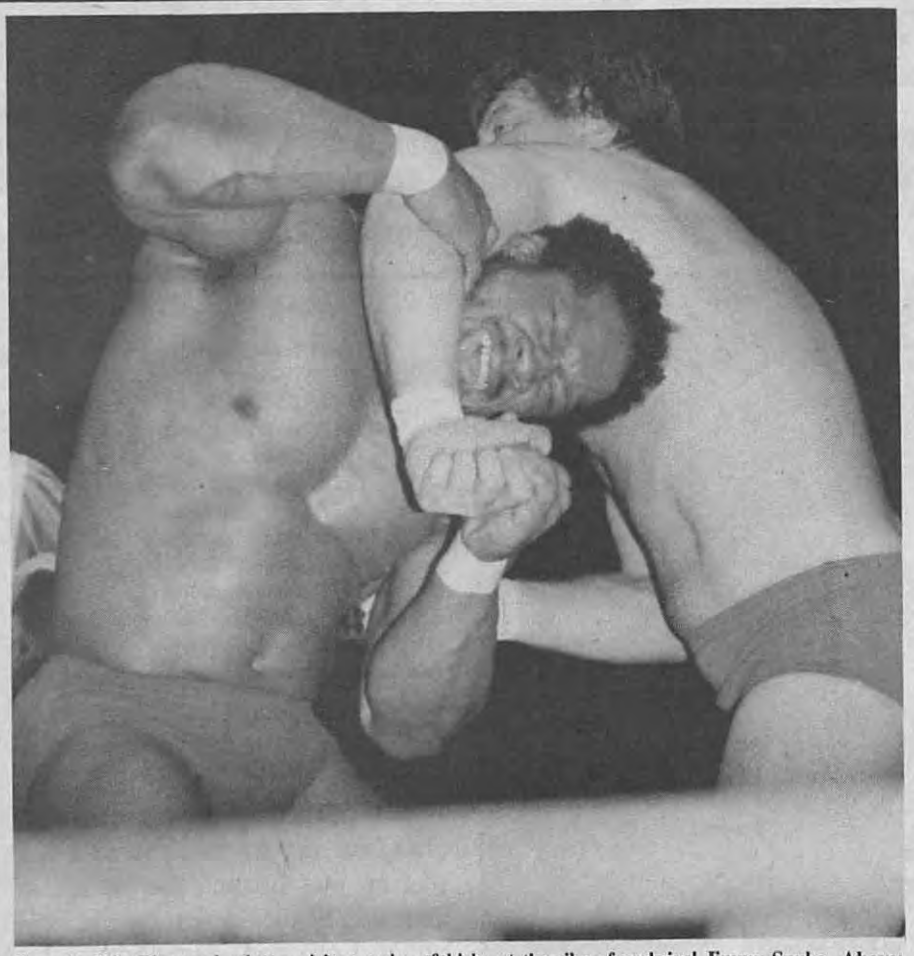
And if that were not the case, it certainly became so when Piper brutally battered Snuka to a bloody pulp in a vicious series of violent confrontations that came about in the wake of the "Piper's Pit" incident.

"Piper is a nut, a madman, a complete and totally uncontrollable maniac," write John Hagoort of Newark, New Jersey. "Believe me, if I had my way, I'd see Piper banned from the sport permanently.

"The thing is, it's not only the feud he's got going with Snuka," Hagoort continued, "but it's his whole attitude. It stinks. He takes some of the greatest men in the history of wrestling and he sits in his chair on 'Piper's Pit' and tries to make the fans think these men are nothing, and that Piper himself is God's gift to the world. Well, I've got news for Piper: he's not. He's just an obnoxious punk who's going to pay sooner or later for what he's doing. What goes around comes around."

The strength of the hatred that wrestling fans have for Piper is underscored by the fact that the 14,832 votes he received in this category constitute the second highest vote total of the balloting. It should also be mentioned that the spread between winner (Piper) and first runner-up (Kevin Sullivan) is the second largest spread of the 1984 balloting (nearly 4,000 votes).

And to think that Piper was 1982's Inspirational Wrestler of the



Opposite left: Piper unleashes a vicious series of kicks at the ribs of archrival Jimmy Snuka. Above: Piper uses the reverse headlock, which enables him to slip his arm around Tony Atlas' throat when the referee is properly shielded.

Year! He's come a long way down since then.

First runner-up: Satan-worshiper Kevin Sullivan continues to dominate the Florida wrestling scene, and continues to invite the hatred of fans throughout the wrestling world. But what's truly interesting about the fans who voted for Sullivan was that for the most part they weren't angered by anything specific Sullivan has done in the ring. Rather, they were angered by the fact that Sullivan attempts to control the careers of other wrestlers, such as Hacksaw Duggan, Mike Davis, and Buzz Sawyer.

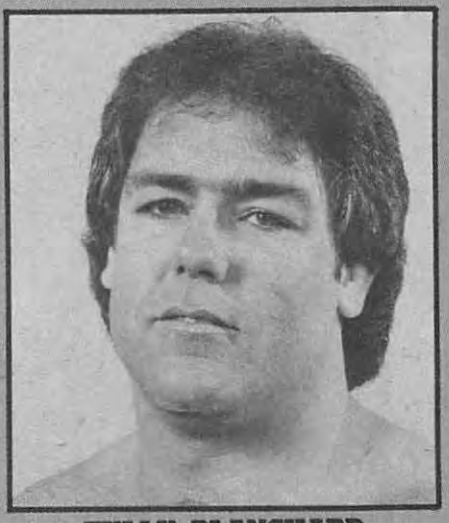
Second runner-up: It's not for nothing that Tully Blanchard has earned the appellation "Superbrat." Blanchard has been at the core of a massive feud in the Mid-Atlantic, a feud that has involved himself, Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Wahoo McDaniel, and Rick Steamboat—and that threatens to suck more and more men into its turbulent waters. Most of the nearly 10,000 fans who voted for Blanchard cited two main reasons for choosing him: (1) Blanchard's negative influence over Wahoo McDaniel, and (2) general obnoxiousness.

Third runner-up: The Iron Sheik's continued insulting of the United States of America, plus his violent feud with Sgt. Slaughter throughout most of 1984, won him well over 9,000 votes and a third runner-up position. Many fans choosing The Iron Sheik noted that the tactics he used in his matches against Slaughter were reprehensible by any standards.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Chris Adams, Greg Valentine, Ted DiBiase, and Gino Hernandez.

RUNNERS-UP

KEVIN SULLIVAN
11,085 votes



TULLY BLANCHARD
9,837 votes

THE IRON SHEIK
9,456 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
11,890

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

SGT. SLAUGHTER

14,324 votes

PAST WINNERS

1983: Hulk Hogan
1982: Roddy Piper
1981: Bob Backlund
1980: Junkyard Dog
1979: Chief Jay Strongbow
1978: Blackjack Mulligan
1977: Bob Backlund
1976: Bruno Sammartino
1975: Mike McCord
1974: Dick Murdoch
1973: Johnny Valentine
1972: Lord Al Hays

ONE YEAR AGO, who would ever have imagined that an ex-Marine drill sergeant, reportedly drummed out of the corps due to excessive strictness to his charges, would be named Inspirational Wrestler of the Year?

But 1984 has been a turnaround year for Sgt. Slaughter.

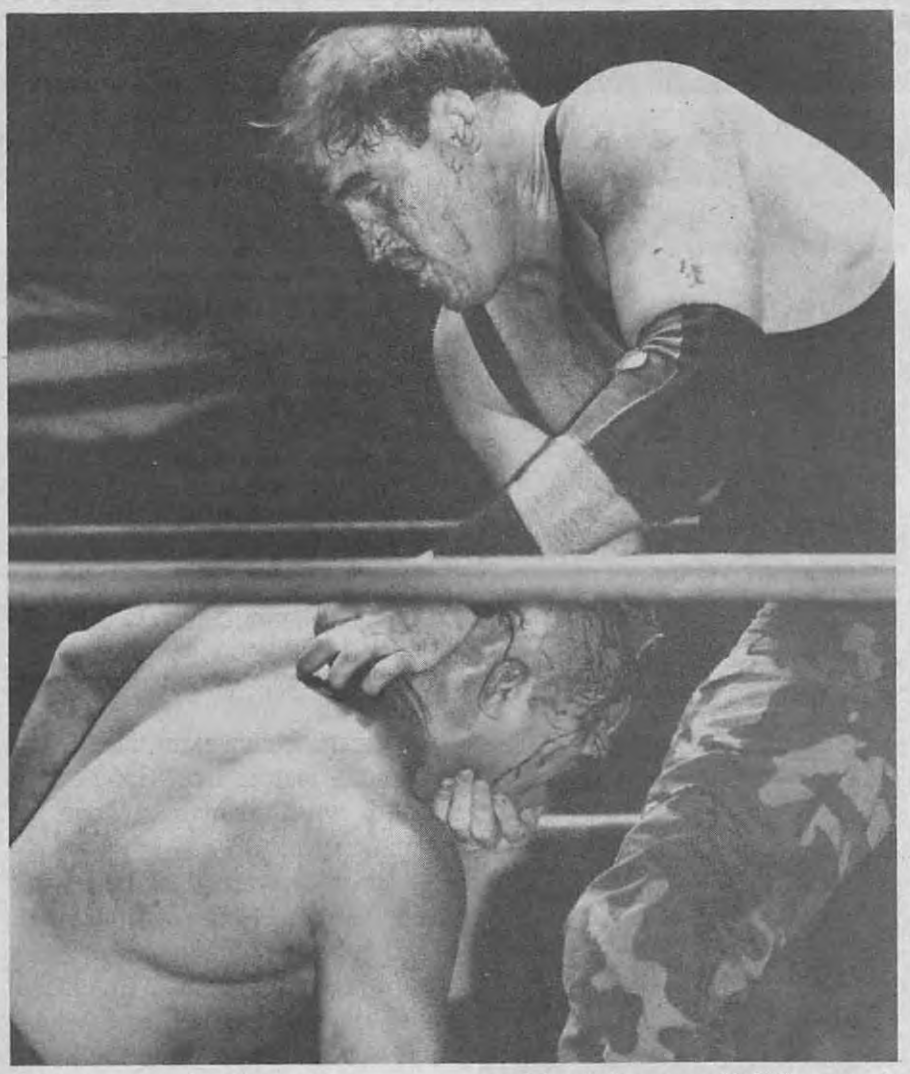
At the end of 1983, Slaughter was one of the most hated men in the WWF area, wrestling such opponents as 1983's Most Popular Wrestler of the Year, Jimmy Snuka, and former WWF heavyweight champion Bob Backlund.

Early in 1984, however, the natural tensions between The Iron Sheik, a native of Teheran, Iran, and Slaughter, a vociferously patriotic American, began to come out in the open. Before long, Slaughter was wrestling The Iron Sheik in a series of violent matches that saw WWF fans cheering for Slaughter more fervently than for any other wrestler in recent memory.

"I know that as far as I was concerned," wrote Sheila Haney of New York City, "I was cheering Slaughter not so much for the fact that he was beating the tar out of The Iron Sheik—which he did, and which I enjoyed—but because his deep love for America was becoming more and more evident with each passing day.

"Slaughter's patriotism is important," Haney continued, "because there aren't too many heroes left in America today that people can look up to. Slaughter, though, is one of those heroes. Not only is he successful at what he does, he embodies a love for this country that needs to be communicated to everyone. He is truly an inspiration to wrestling fans everywhere."

First runner-up: Kerry Von Erich received the highest number of votes of any first runner-up in the 1984 balloting, and many fans who followed his May 6 victory over NWA World champion Ric Flair may be surprised that Kerry didn't win this award. Indeed, Kerry openly dedicated his NWA title reign to his late brother, David. There are times when there is no greater inspiration than the love of a man for his brother. Kerry, more



In the name of freedom, Sgt. Slaughter waged a courageous battle against The Iron Sheik of Iran. Formerly a hated rulebreaker himself, Slaughter was truly an inspiration to all Americans.

than any man in professional wrestling, embodied and communicated this love in 1984.

Second runner-up: Many of the more than 10,000 fans who named Kevin Von Erich as their choice for Inspirational Wrestler of the Year cited Kevin's love of the fans, the support of his younger brothers Kerry and Mike, and his dedication to the sport of wrestling as primary reasons for making him their choice. While it may be a disappointment to many that a Von Erich didn't capture the top spot, there should be a great deal of pride among Von Erich fans in general, and Fritz Von Erich in particular, that Kerry and Kevin combined for over 23,000 votes in this category.

Third runner-up: After wrestling with injuries and losing his WWF title to The Iron Sheik late in 1983, Bob Backlund never complained that he was unfairly denied a chance to regain his belt. He had too much pride to do that. Still, Backlund returned to the public eye late in 1984, claiming that he "never lost the WWF title. They can take the belt away from me, but they can't take away my title." Clearly, there are many fans who agree with that assessment—enough to have provided Backlund with a third-runner up finish in this category.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Magnum T.A., Jimmy Valiant, Rick Martel, and Dusty Rhodes.

RUNNERS-UP

KERRY VON ERICH
13,145 votes

KEVIN VON ERICH
10,345 votes

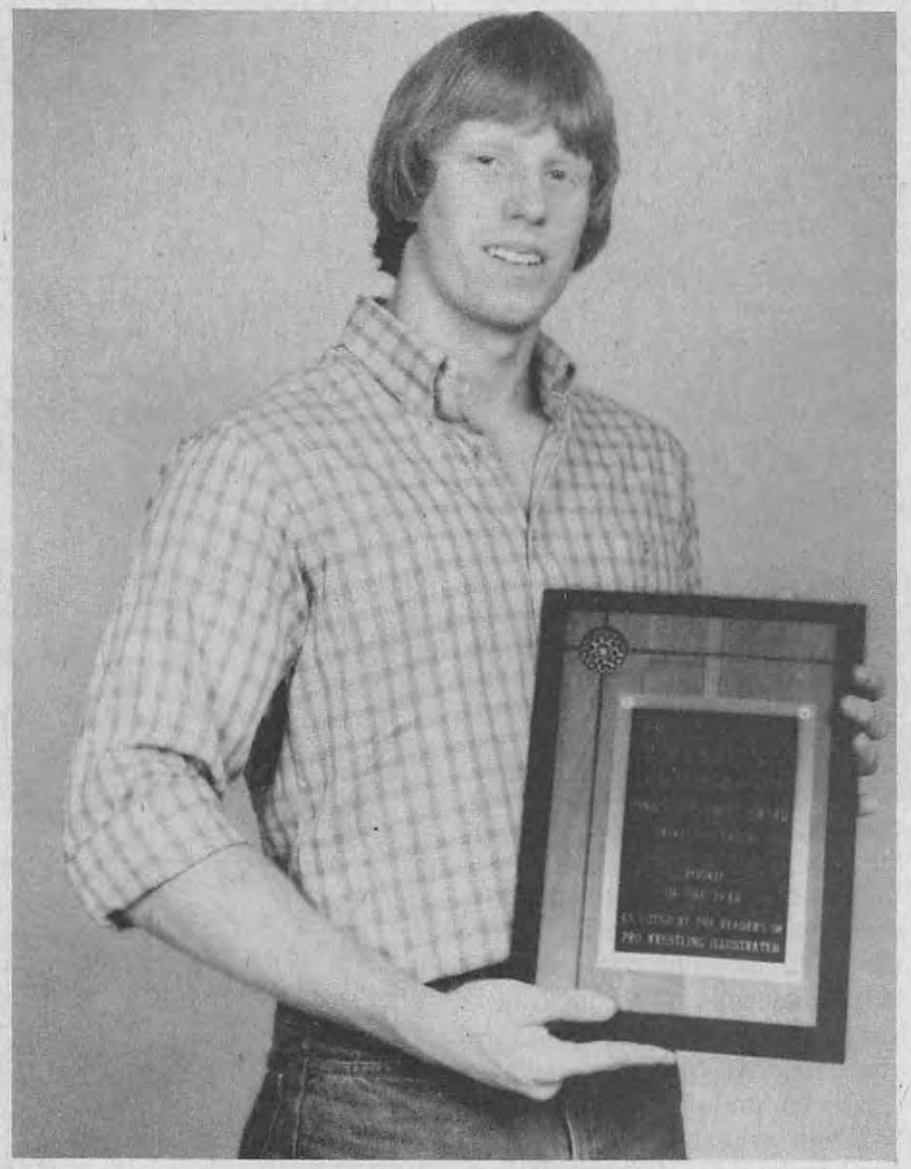
BOB BACKLUND
7,324 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
11,124

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

MIKE VON ERICH

13,328 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: Angelo Mosca Jr.
1982: Brad Armstrong
1981: David Bruno Sammartino
1980: Terry Taylor
1979: Sweet Brown Sugar
1978: Tommy Rich
1977: Rick Steamboat
1976: Bob Backlund
1975: Ric Flair
1974: Larry Zbyszko
1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)
1972: Mike Graham

IT'S BEEN SAID so many times before, but it bears repeating. Especially now:

It's hard to believe that Mike Von Erich is just finishing up his rookie year in wrestling.

Maybe Mike could have received thousands more votes for Rookie of the Year; maybe a lot of fans forgot that he was a rookie, and simply assumed that he wasn't eligible for voting in this category.

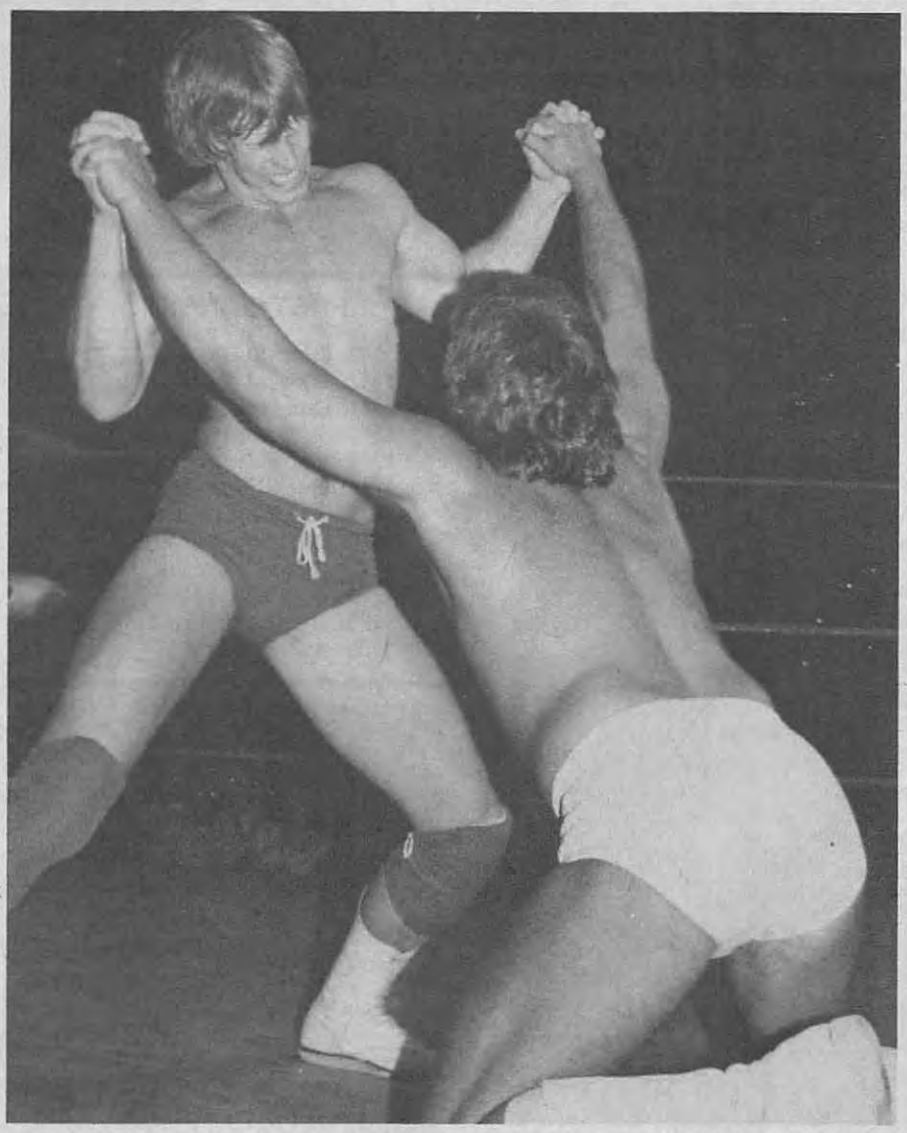
Maybe. But enough fans remembered to vote for Mike to grant him a close victory as Rookie of the Year.

"In a year when there really haven't been too many rookies of any real caliber," wrote Rob Hoffman of New Hyde Park, New York, "Mike Von Erich stands out. In just the first few months of his career he has been one-third of the World Class six-man tag team champions. And, more surprisingly, he has won the World Class American heavyweight title. That's a double feature many long-established wrestlers would love to earn.

"The only worry fans may have about Mike," Hoffman continued, "is that he may fall into the 'Texas Trap' his brothers have. That is, he *must* go on the road for a while, away from Papa Fritz and his brothers. If he stays Texas-bound, 10 years from now we'll be talking about the Mike Von Erich that 'could have been."

A fair warning. But as Mike Von Erich looks ahead to his second year as a pro, fans are still talking of the Mike Von Erich that is yet to be, a Mike Von Erich who should, by all standards, be nothing short of sensational.

First runner-up: He stands 6'2", weighs 275 pounds, and hails from Moscow, Russia. He is Nikita Koloff, the nephew of Ivan Koloff, and at the age of 23 he has a wide open career ahead of him. He is a man of awesome physical proportions that the above statistics simply do not reveal: Like either of The Road Warriors, Nikita Koloff is a solidly muscular machine of pure power and destruction. Nearly 13,000 fans respect that power



Mike Von Erich overpowers Gino Hernandez, the man from whom he won his first major title, the World Class American title. It was a tremendous rookie year for the 20-year-old Von Erich.

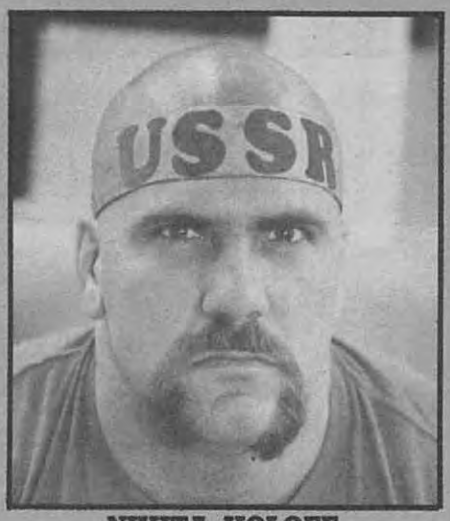
enough to have given him a decisive finish as first runner-up.

Second runner-up: A rookie who has commanded a great deal of attention throughout the wrestling world due to his rejection of American values in favor of Soviet ideals is Krusher Khrushchev, formerly known by the name Krusher Darsow. Khrushchev was trained by Nikolai Volkoff, and was a dominant force on the Mid-South wrestling scene for most of 1984. He currently wrestles in the Florida area, and holds the U.S. tag team championship along with Jim Neidhardt.

Third runner-up: Kevin Kelly is known as "The California Herculles," and fans in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere are hailing him as a promising young athlete in the mold of Billy Jack. Like Billy Jack, Kelly uses the full-nelson as a finishing hold, and like Billy Jack, Kelly has a physique that is nothing short of remarkable. And when he threw two men over the top rope *simultaneously* to win a Pacific Northwest battle royal earlier this year, he virtually cemented his reputation as one of the most promising young athletes of the year.

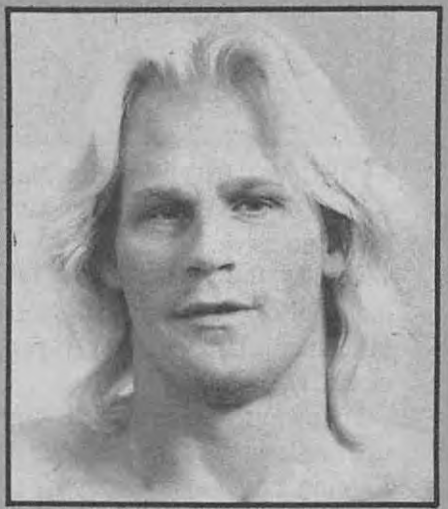
Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Brutus Beefcake, Steve Armstrong, Gino Brito Jr., and The Tonga Kid.

RUNNERS-UP



NIKITA KOLOFF
12,844 votes

KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV
9,387



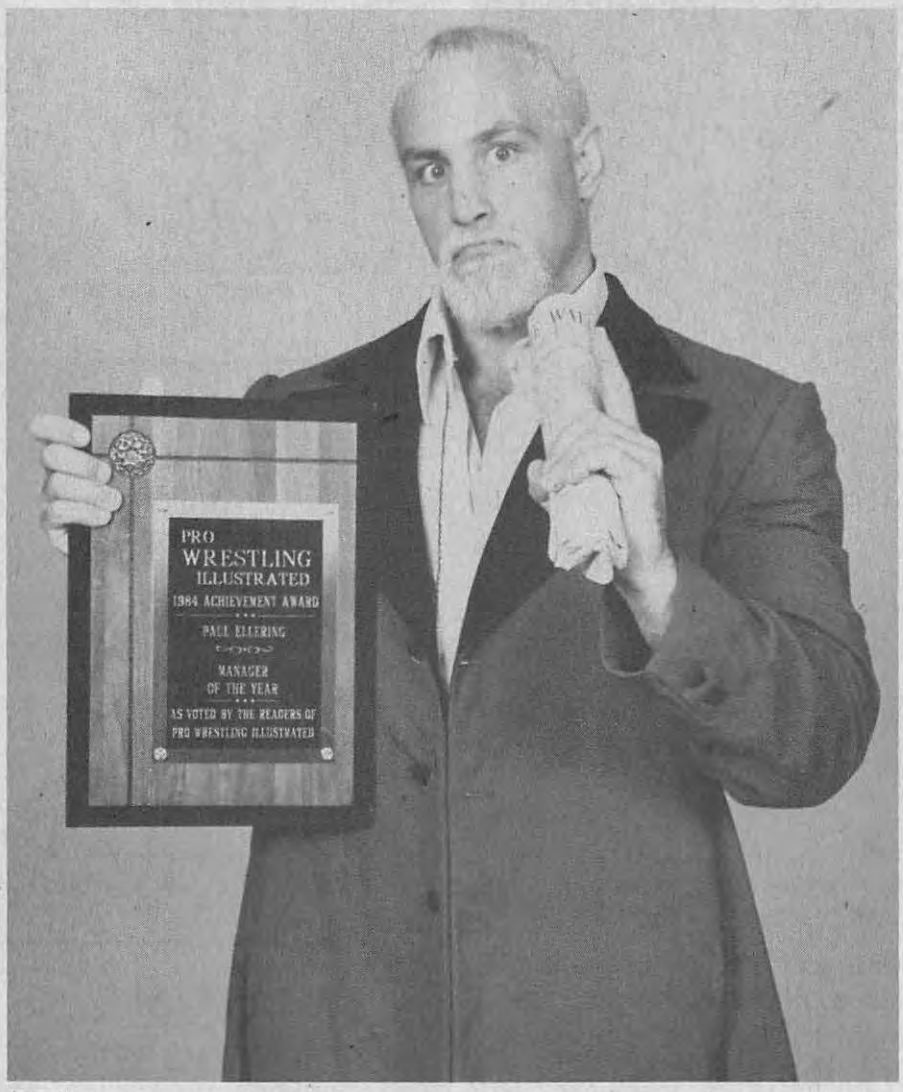
KEVIN KELLY
7,873 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
12,583

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

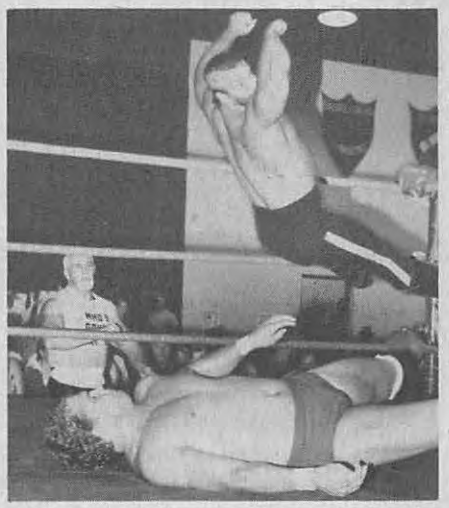
PAUL ELLERING

14,562 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: James J. Dillon
1982: James J. Dillon
1981: Capt. Lou Albano
1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink
1979: Arnold Skaaland
1978: Arnold Skaaland
1977: The Grand Wizard
1976: Bobby Heenan
1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon
1974: Capt. Lou Albano
1973: The Grand Wizard
1972: Bobby Heenan



Ellering observes from ringside as Road Warrior Animal delivers a devastating elbowdrop against Curt Hennig.

THE VOTING FOR the Manager of the Year was, to say the least, decisive.

To say the most, it was recognition of one of the most successful managerial feats ever in professional wrestling.

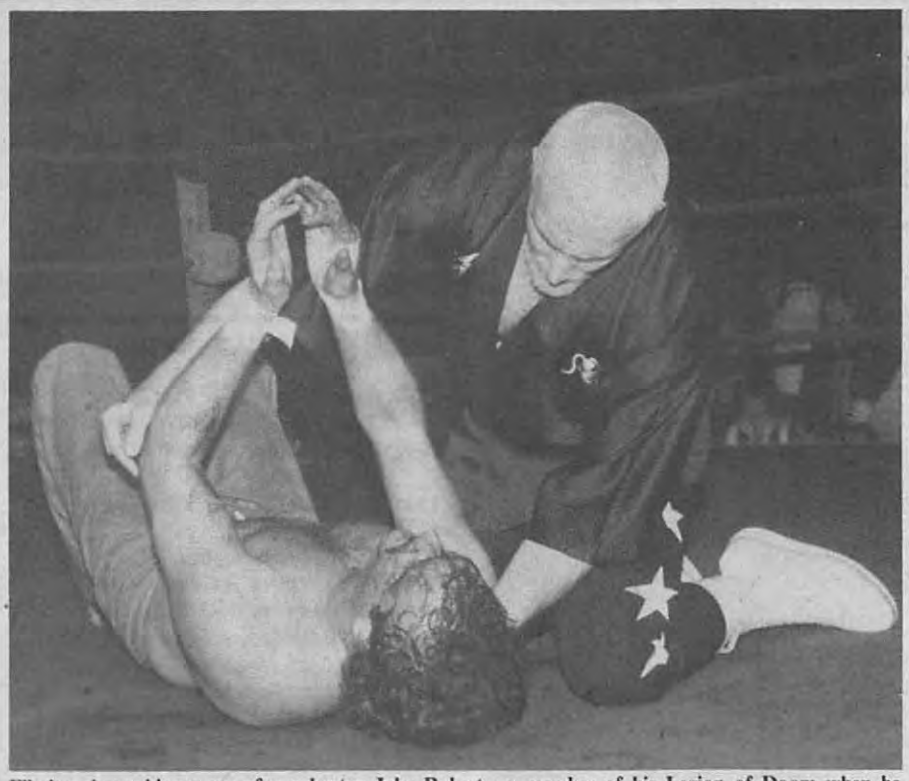
Following a close third runner-up finish last year, Precious Paul Ellering broke away from the pack to finish more than 3,000 votes ahead of the first runner-up and capture the honor as 1984's Manager of the Year.

But this recognition should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed Ellering's career over the past 12 months. Throughout the year, he managed The Road Warriors. And early in the year, while in Georgia, his "Legion of Doom" stable included Jake Roberts and The Spoiler.

As the NWA considered a ban on The Road Warriors in the middle of the year, Ellering made the decision to bring his team to the AWA, where they quickly captured their first world tag team title, from Baron Von Raschke and The Crusher.

"I voted for Ellering with a slight reservation," wrote Mike Spergel of St. Paul, Minnesota. "He certainly deserves the award on the basis of his success with The Road Warriors. But objectively, one has to wonder why he let The Spoiler and Jake Roberts slip from his grasp. Nevertheless, I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt and grant that he had good reasons for dropping Spoiler and Roberts from the Legion.

"It's going to be tough for Ellering to continue his success in 1985, though," Spergel continued, "unless he takes the Warriors to the NWA for another world tag title . . . or unless he expands his



Ellering shows his concern for a beaten Jake Roberts, a member of his Legion of Doom when he managed in the Georgia area.

Legion of Doom with some new names."

That might very well be the case, Mike. Only Precious Paul Ellering knows what's in store for the Legion of Doom in 1985. But we can tell you with certainty that Ellering's activities next year will be well worth every wrestling fan's attention.

First runner-up: He acquired the services of King Kong Bundy, who managed to capture the Mid-Southern title. He took over the contract of Rick Rude and made him one of the most dominant forces on the Mid-Southern scene. He succeeded in gaining the respect and loyalty of Eddie Gilbert, who feuded with Tommy Rich for much of late 1984. He managed a rookie by the name of Humongous to the Mid-Southern title. Jimmy Hart accomplished all this and much more in 1984, and that's why he solidly captured the first runner-up spot in 1984's Manager of the Year voting.

Second runner-up: Jim Cornette spends most of his time managing The Midnight Express, who held the Mid-South tag team title for a large portion of the year. And though he suffered the humiliation of having his head shaved by Hacksaw Jim Duggan, Cornette has influenced events on the Mid-South scene strongly enough to enable him to command over 9,000 votes from fans and a second runner-up finish.

Third runner-up: For much of 1984, James J. Dillon was in Canada, away from the American wrestling fans' attention. But late in the year, he returned to the States and guided Ron Bass and Black Bart to the Mid-Atlantic tag team title, and Bass to the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title. Enough fans recognized this success in the Mid-Atlantic to give Dillon a strong finish, but not strong enough for him to realize his dream of being the only manager ever to capture Manager of the Year honors a third straight year.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include Gary Hart, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, Paul Jones, and Cyndi Lauper.

RUNNERS-UP

JIMMY HART
11,346 votes

JIM CORNETTE
9,23[illegible] votes

JAMES J. DILLON
8,345 votes

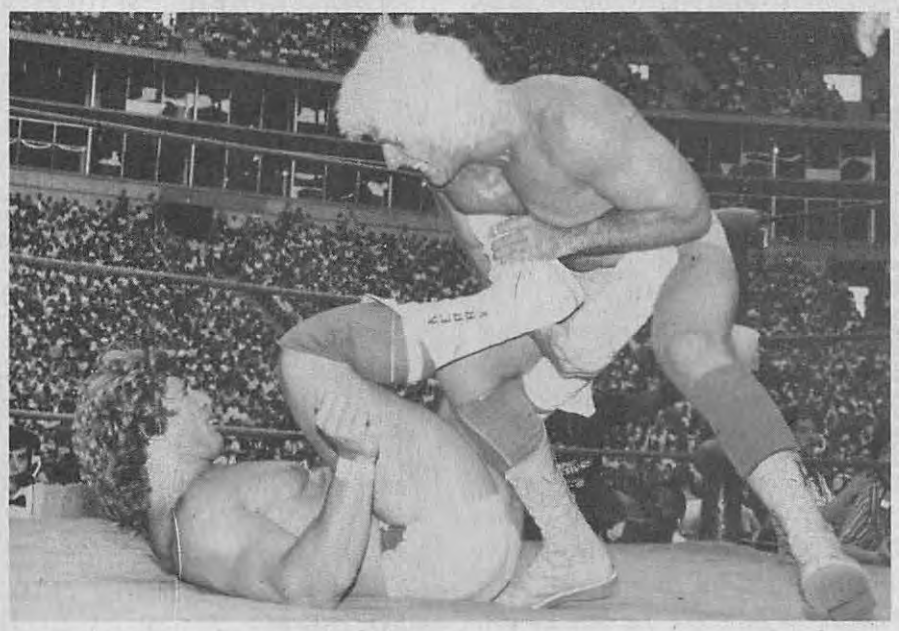
VOTES FOR OTHERS:
12,234

MATCH OF THE YEAR

KERRY VON ERICH VS. RIC FLAIR

(Von Erich captures NWA World title in Texas Stadium)

15,713 votes



PAST WINNERS

1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair (Race wins seventh NWA World title)
1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka (cage match)
1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan
1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko (cage match)
1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race (Rhodes wins NWA World title)
1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham (Backlund wins WWF title)
1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino (Graham wins WWF title)
1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen
1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Arion
1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco
1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. (Race wins first NWA World title)
1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal

THE MOST DECISIVE result in any category this year came as nearly 16,000 fans chose as Match of the Year the memorable Texas Stadium clash in which Kerry Von Erich won the NWA World title from Ric Flair.

The final vote total of 15,713 votes for this match was the highest single vote total anywhere in the balloting. And the 5,167 vote spread between the winning vote total and the first runner-up vote total is the largest margin of victory in any of the nine categories.

"I never had the chance to go to Texas to see the Von Erichs wrestle in person," wrote Barry Condon of Boston, "but I did see the match on television several times. I wish I had been in Irving, Texas, that day. It was incredible. Kerry was fueled with so much energy, so much enthusiasm, that I would have been surprised if he *didn't* win the NWA title that day.

"But what really marked that match as special in my mind,"

Forty-three thousand fans in Texas Stadium witnessed the Match of the Year, as Kerry Von Erich dethroned NWA World champion Ric Flair. Above: Von Erich thwarts Flair's attempted figure-four leglock. Below: Flair will elbow his way out of Kerry's sleeperhold. Opposite page: Flair tries in vain to grab the ropes and avoid being sunset flipped.

Condon continued, "was the fact that so many thousands of loyal fans, more than 43,000, were on hand to witness it and support Kerry in his drive for the title. There was such a unity of feeling in that stadium, I even felt it through a television replay."

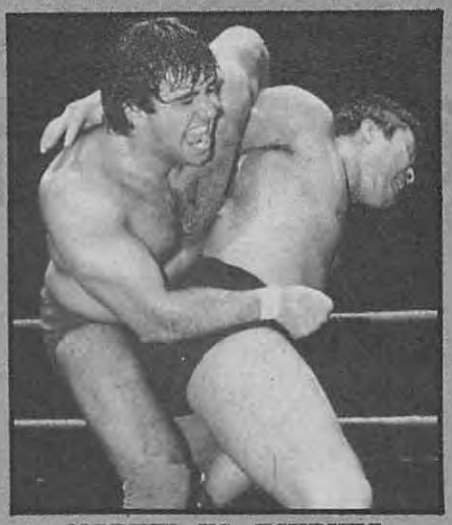
First runner-up: Rick Martel's victory over Jumbo Tsuruta May 13 in Minnesota's St. Paul Civic Center netted him the AWA World heavyweight title. It also netted him the respect and admiration of wrestling fans throughout the country, more than 10,000 of whom voted for that match as Match of the Year.

Second runner-up: The atmosphere in New York's Madison Square Garden on January 23 was one of pure electricity. Hulk Hogan had just pinned The Iron Sheik to capture the WWF heavyweight title, and the fans were going wild. And the spirit of "Hulkamania" inspired nearly 10,000 fans to vote for that confrontation as their favorite Match of the Year.

Third runner-up: They called it "The Night Of Champions," and it was the first card of NWA-sanctioned wrestling in the New York area in 20 years. Held on May 29 in East Rutherford, New Jersey, at the beautiful Brendan Byrne Arena in the Meadowlands Sports Complex, it was truly a night to remember. And the most memorable match of a most memorable card came when Ric Flair defended his NWA World title against challenger Rick Steamboat. Many fans on hand that night had never seen either man in action, but as they left the arena they had enormous respect for both Flair and Steamboat.

Votes for others: Some of the top vote-getting matches that did not capture a runner-up spot include Tito Santana's capturing of the WWF Intercontinental title from Magnificent Muraco on February 11 in Boston; Dusty Rhodes' April 30 win over NWA World champion Ric Flair in the main event of "The Lords Of The Ring" in Miami, Florida's Orange Bowl; The Road Warriors' August 25 capturing of the AWA World tag team belts from Crusher and Baron Von Raschke in Las Vegas' Showboat Pavilion; Magnum T.A.'s North American title victory over Mr. Wrestling II on May 13 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the Civic Center.

RUNNERS-UP



MARTEL VS. TSURUTA
10,546 votes

HOGAN VS. IRON SHEIK
9,987 votes

FLAIR VS. STEAMBOAT
6,132 votes

VOTES FOR OTHERS:
14,845

PWI EDITORS' AWARD

DAVID VON ERICH

PAST WINNERS

1983: The Grand Wizard
1982: Lou Thesz
1981: Bruno Sammartino

BACK IN 1981, the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* decided to institute a special "Editors' Award" to be presented to an individual in wrestling who, as we wrote at the time, "has risen above the demands of the sport to contribute something special and lasting to the history of the squared circle."

For the second year in a row, we sadly present this award posthumously.

David Von Erich was a man of uncommon skills and promise. Born in Lake Dallas, Texas, on July 22, 1958, he was the second of five sons (Kevin is the oldest, followed by David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris).

David was a basketball and football star at Lake Dallas High School. He attended North Texas State on a basketball scholarship. After a year of college, however, David quit school to become a professional wrestler in 1977.

Within just a few years, David found himself to be virtually a permanent fixture atop the NWA ratings. He wrestled for the NWA World title many times against champions Harley Race and Ric Flair.

In 1979, David and his brother Kevin combined to capture the American tag team title from Bruiser Brody and Gino Hernandez. Two years later, David won the Texas State title from Hernandez.

With Kevin, David also held the U.S. tag team title, the World Class tag team title, and the All-Asian tag team title.

With brothers Kevin and Kerry, David feuded with The Freebirds for the World Class six-man title, and the Von Erichs held that championship on several occasions.

Alone, David held the Texas State title four times, the Southern title, and the United National belt. On September 16, 1983, David defeated Ric Flair for the Missouri State title and wore the belt until January 6, 1984, when he was defeated by Harley Race.

But more than these professional achievements, David Von Erich will be remembered for the loyalty and love he inspired in his fans. For many of those fans, David Von Erich personified all that was good about Texas ... about wrestling ... about enjoying life.

It was always a thrill to see David enter an arena. On most occasions, he would carry a yellow rose into the ring with him, and throw it to a lucky girl at ringside. The looks in those girls' eyes tell more about David than any list of career achievements ever could. They knew that someday he would capture the NWA World heavyweight title. They knew that no matter how many accolades had come before, there were always greater horizons to cover and greater goals to accomplish.

On the morning of February 10, David Von Erich was found dead in his Tokyo hotel room, the victim of acute enteritis—a severe inflammation of the intestines.

He will be missed. □

BACK ISSUES OF

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DECEMBER 1982

July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. PLUS: Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

October 1981/COLOR POSTER: Ted DiBiase. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Piper. PLUS: Backlund, Brody, Mascaras, Rich.

May 1982/COLOR POSTER: Ric Flair. Cover story: Wrestling II vs. Spoiler. PLUS: Mulligan Jr., Backlund, McDaniel, Piper.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Blassie, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Reed, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

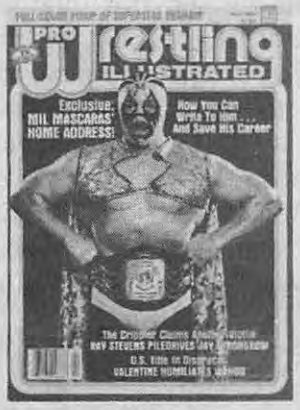
February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Hansen, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Brisco, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.



APRIL 1983

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

APRIL 1984

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: Junkyard Dog, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell, Flair.

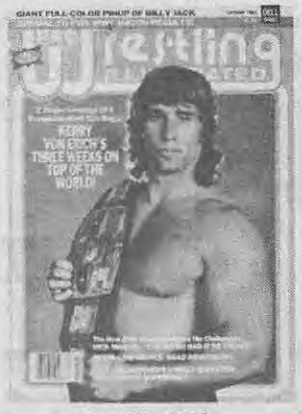
September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.



OCTOBER 1984

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

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- ☐ PWI/July 1980
- ☐ PWI/August 1980
- ☐ PWI/October 1981
- ☐ PWI/May 1982
- ☐ PWI/June 1982
- ☐ PWI/August 1982
- ☐ PWI/September 1982
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(Continued from page 6)

overcome this year. Remember when Jake Roberts and Paul Ellering made Garvin pay $34,000 for a shot at the National TV title? Garvin could have given up, but he didn't. He paid the money, wrestled Roberts again, and again, and finally took the belt away from him in Baltimore. That's what I call inspiration and that's why I voted for Ronnie.

STEPHEN CARUSO
Columbia, MD

A GENTLEMAN NO LONGER

An open letter to Chris Adams:

I can't believe the way you have changed, and I blame Gary Hart for it.

You keep talking about your incredible winning streak, and that Gary Hart is the reason for it, but what you're forgetting is what you have had to do to win those matches.

Why didn't you stop Gary from hitting Stella Mae French? Did you forget how Stella and Sunshine helped you in the past? And there was no excuse for what you did to your supposed friend Kevin Von Erich.

I hope you're going to change your nickname, because there's no longer any reason to call you "Gentleman" Chris Adams.

BONNIE POIRIER
Denton, TX

PATERA VS. HOGAN

I think that Ken Patera is the man who will beat Hulk Hogan and take the WWF title. Patera is the only wrestler who can combine strength, power, intelligence, and scientific skill. That's what's necessary to get the job done.

Hogan used to be a great wrestler when he had Fred Blassie as his manager, but now he's just a big clod who blindly bows to the wishes of the fans. This will be his downfall.

Patera is his own man, and he couldn't care less about what the babbling morons in the crowd

Gary Hart has convinced Chris Adams that he will be more successful under his tutelage. Reader Bonnie Poirier is very disappointed in Adams.

Ken Patera has the strength, skill, and intelligence to take Hulk Hogan's WWF title, in the opinion of Jim Lankford.

have to say about his wrestling style. I certainly won't be surprised when Patera humbles Hogan and takes his belt.

JIM LANKFORD
Altoona, PA □

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RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)

King Kong Bundy and Crusher Blackwell, who weigh in at a combined 920 pounds, share the $100,000 prize for winning the Chicago tag team battle royal. They eliminated Nick Bockwinkel and Mr. Saito for the victory.

Mid-Atlantic, teamed with **Dusty Rhodes**, and succeeded in capturing the NWA World tag team title from **Ivan Koloff** and **Don Kernodle**!

The team of **King Kong Bundy** and **Crusher Blackwell** received $100,000 in prize money when they won a tag team battle royal in Chicago. They ousted the combination of **Nick Bockwinkel** and **Mr. Saito** to score the victory ... **The Road Warriors** battled a pair of former NWA World champions on Halloween night in St. Louis: **Hawk** and **Animal** battled **Terry Funk** and **Dory Funk Jr.** to a wild double-disqualification decision. On that same card, AWA World champion **Rick Martel** wrestled seven-time former NWA World champion **Harley Race** to a one-hour time limit draw ... Martel also made a title defense in Tokyo, Japan, against top-rated Japanese wrestler **Ashura Hara** ... **Gorgeous Jim Garvin** is back in action again. Accompanied by his valet, **Precious**, Garvin is wrestling throughout the AWA area.

Gorgeous Jim Garvin and his valet, Precious, have emerged in the AWA area. Garvin, quite naturally, is seeking a match with AWA World champion Rick Martel.

Dusty Rhodes recently wrestled **Nikita Koloff** in a match that is acknowledged as "The American Dream's" specialty: a Texas bullrope match. During the match, Nikita's uncle, **Ivan Koloff**, and Dusty's NWA World tag team championship partner, **Manny Fernandez**, were at ringside. During the course of the match, Fernandez tripped Nikita and Rhodes moved in for a quick pin vic-

tory. "This is stinking American trickery," accused Ivan Koloff, "and my nephew and I will not stand for such things. This is like war, and this match was only one battle. Rhodes and Fernandez may have won this battle, but they will not win the war."

The Fantastics, **Tommy Rogers** and **Bobby Fulton**, defeated **Scott Irwin** and **Bill Irwin** for the World Class tag team title . . . **Dory Funk Jr.** and **Dutch Mantel** are feuding throughout the Florida area. Like Dory, Mantel is carrying a whip into the ring.

You'll notice that because this is the special year-end issue of **PWI**, several regular columns do not appear this month because of space limitations:

- Craig Peters' "In Focus" will return next month with the first winner of the new monthly fan photography contest. Fans are invited to send black and white wrestling photos that they have taken. The best photo each month will be printed in **PWI** and the photographer will receive a free **PWI** T-shirt. A short description of the match from which the photo came, plus your T-shirt size, should be included with each photo. All photos must be black and white, become the property of **Pro Wrestling Illustrated**, and cannot be returned. (Please do not send any negatives.) Send your photo to: In Focus c/o **Pro Wrestling Illustrated,** Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York 11571. This is your chance to have one of your photos printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine—and win a free shirt, too!
- "Arena Report," the popular feature that provides match-by-match results from WWF cards across the country, will appear in the February 1985 issue of **Sports Review Wrestling,** now on sale.

"Arena Report" and "In Focus," along with Matt Brock's "Looking At," "Wrestling Enquirer," and "Press Conference" will return to the pages of **PWI** next month.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

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THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER

KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 10)

John McEnroe Most Immature Athlete Trophy
Tully Blanchard

He Didn't Pass The Jane Fonda Workout
Abdullah the Butcher

He's A Bad Guy, He's A Good Guy, He's A Bad Guy . . .
Buzz Sawyer

Least Publicized Champions
Dick Murdoch and Adrian Adonis

NWA Announcer Of The Year
Gordon Solie

AWA Announcer Of The Year
Mike Sheilds

WWF Announcer Of The Year
Tie between Vince McMahon, Jack Reynolds, Roger Kent, Bruno Sammartino, Angelo Mosca, Blackjack Mulligan, Tony Garea, Red Bastien, Gorilla Monsoon, Gene Okerlund, Lord Al Hays, Freddie Miller, and Pat Patterson

They're So Awesome It's Unfair
The Road Warriors

He'll Come Alive In '85
Mike Rotundo

Upset Of The Year
Greg Valentine wins the Intercontinental title from Tito Santana

If You Hate The U.S.A. So Much, Why Don't You Leave?
Tie between Ivan Koloff and Iron Sheik

Chiller Theater Almost Human Award
Missing Link

If Looks Could Kill
King Kong Bundy

Nice Guys Finish First
Ronnie Garvin

Best Nickname
Steve "Dr. Death" Williams

Worst Nickname
Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff

TV Controversy Of The Year
The WWF taking over WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling*

The Road Warriors, managed by Precious Paul Ellering, win the They're So Awesome It's Unfair Award.

Most Distinguished World Title Reign
Ric Flair

Least Distinguished World Title Reign
Jumbo Tsuruta

The Bugsy McGraw Crazy But Successful Award
Jimmy Valiant

Most Publicized Region
The WWF

Least Publicized Region
Pensacola, Florida

Future Most Hated Wrestler
Nikita Koloff

Future Most Popular Wrestler
Mike Von Erich

Tag Team We'd Like To See
Dusty Rhodes and Kerry Von Erich

Match We'd Like To See
Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan

Hold Of The Year
Chris Adams' inverted figure-four Boston crab

I'd be interested to see some of your suggestions for the Not Necessarily The PWI Awards. Send them to King's Court, c/o PWI, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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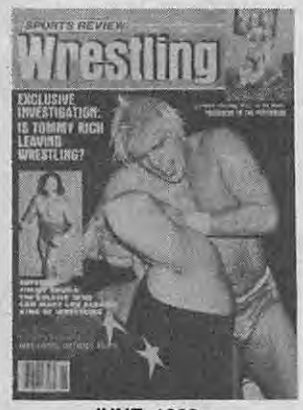


JUNE 1982

January 1977/Cover stories: Funk, Bruno. PLUS: Ladd, Abdullah, Mascaras, Stasiak.

February 1978/Cover stories: Rhodes, Andre. PLUS: Gagne, Funk, Maivia, Bockwinkel.

March 1978/Cover stories: Andre-Flair, Mascaras. PLUS: Koloff, Rhodes, Inoki.

August 1979/Cover story: Bruno-Koloff. PLUS: Flair, Orndorff, Funk.

September 1979/Cover story: Flair-McDaniel. PLUS: Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

October 1979/Cover stories: Rhodes, McDaniel-Spoiler. PLUS: Steamboat, Slater, Hernandez.

December 1979/Cover story: Brisco-Spoiler. PLUS: Snuka, Andre, Mascaras.

January 1980/Cover stories: Albano-Andre, Flair-Jones. PLUS: Race, Graham, Valiant.

February 1980/Cover story: Rhodes-Funk. PLUS: Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

April 1980/Cover stories: Andre, Mulligan-Studd. PLUS: LeDuc, Lawler, Ladd.

May 1980/Cover stories: Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler. PLUS: Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Cover stories: Graham, Patera. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Cover story: Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, McGraw, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Cover story: Hogan. PLUS: Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Cover story: Morales-Fuji. PLUS: Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/Cover story: SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

April 1981/Cover story: Atlas. PLUS: Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Cover stories: Morales-Khan. PLUS: Lawler, Slater, Piper.

August 1981/Cover story: Freebirds. PLUS: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.

September 1981/Cover story: Backlund-Mosca. PLUS: Freebirds, Flair, Rich, JYD.

October 1981/Cover stories: Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen. PLUS: Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Cover story: Rhodes-DiBiase. PLUS: Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Superstar, Andre.

January 1982/Cover story: Backlund-Muraco. PLUS: Blassie, Andre, Rhodes, Blanchard.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Putski, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

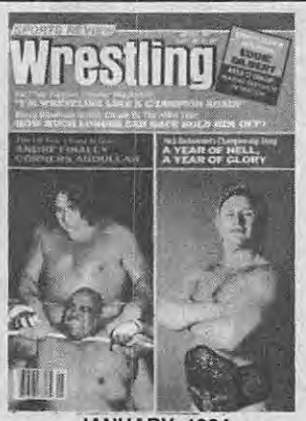
April 1982/Cover stories: Spoiler, Idol-Hayes. PLUS: Morales, Super Destroyer, Ladd.

May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Cover stories: Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Cover stories: Steamboat-Idol, Albano. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Patera.

August 1982/Cover stories: Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater. PLUS: Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.



JANUARY 1984

September 1982/Cover stories: Von Erich, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Mascaras, Hansen, Rhodes, Blassie.

October 1982/Cover story: Funk-Abdullah. PLUS: Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Cover story: Piper. PLUS: Abdullah, Saito, Armstrong, Von Erich.

December 1982/Cover stories: Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair. PLUS: Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Cover stories: Rich, McDaniel-Valentine. PLUS: Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Race, Morales-Rose. PLUS: Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Cover stories: Flair-Bass, Snuka. PLUS: Sullivan, Steamboat, Lanza.

April 1983/Cover stories: Backlund-Graham, Briscos. PLUS: Rhodes, Samoans, Hogan.

May 1983/Cover story: Muraco. PLUS: Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco.

June 1983/Cover stories: Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson. PLUS: Brody, Sullivan.

July 1983/Cover story: Valiant-Humperdink. PLUS: Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Cover stories: Martel-Valentine, Mulligan. PLUS: Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Cover stories: Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody. PLUS: Slater, Wrestling II, Backlund.

December 1983/Cover story: Windham-LeDuc. PLUS: Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Cover stories: Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Gilbert, Windham, Flair.

February 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen. PLUS: Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Cover story: Starrcade '83 featuring Flair, Steamboat & Youngblood, Piper-Valentine. PLUS: Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

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July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two championship cards.

October 1984/Cover stories: Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video. PLUS: Atlas, Spoiler, historic Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Cover story: Von Erich & Billy Jack. PLUS: Andre, Fabulous Ones, The Summer Wars!

December 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

January 1985/Cover stories: Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*.

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 12)

my question outside the Sportatorium in downtown Dallas.

They stand in line, waiting for the arena to open its doors. They have reserved tickets, but that doesn't matter. They range in age from seven to 70. There are teenage girls accompanied by one of their mothers, all Von Erich fan club members, wearing "I Love The Von Erichs" T-shirts, hoping that Kerry will look over toward them and smile. There are cigar-chomping laborers who remember watching Fritz Von Erich wrestle 20 years ago and are now appreciating the new generation of Von Erichs.

There are young boys from Ft. Worth who look upon Kerry and his brothers as superheroes, fighting the forces of evil week after week. There are women who might have had sons and daughters who went to Lake Dallas High School with Kerry and have followed his career ever since he said hello to them on Parents' Day or Graduation Day.

The second the doors open, they find their seats. They purchase their programs. And then they sit. And the laborer sitting next to the schoolboy from Ft. Worth tells him about how he used to watch Fritz wrestle back in the early 1960s. And the older woman carrying her Von Erich scrapbook lets the young girls share her memories of Kerry's feud with Freebird Michael Hayes.

Somewhere else, a group of high school age boys have mounted the Kerry Von Erich centerfold from the December issue of *PWI* on sticks, and they parade around the Sportatorium like ralliers at a political convention. The fan club girls cheer when they see the boys. The crowd begins to rumble with excitement, even though it's only yet half-full. By the time the matches begin, there won't be a seat to be had, and the noise will be heard as far away as the dressing room area, where I'll be talking to their favorite wrestler.

"There's an incredible sense of togetherness with the fans," Kerry said. "You can see it when you're coming down the aisle, and they're just having a good time. There's no pushing or shoving in the crowds to get to you. Sure, sometimes a fan will get a little too rambunctious, but you have to expect that.

"The feeling I get, though, is that the fans all want each other to enjoy themselves, you know?" Kerry said. "They all have one thing in common: They love to come out to the matches. That's what makes it so good to be in the ring. I gotta say that it wouldn't be the same if we just wrestled in front of TV cameras with no audience, and I'm glad we don't have to. The fans, they love wrestling!"

And the fans love him. "We love Kerry!" one of the girls says. "He won the World championship, he's beaten all the best wrestlers, and he's kind, and once his kissed me on the cheek before a match, and he's really good looking!"

"Kerry's the best," says a retired oil field worker. "Even better than his dad was, and that's a testimony to Fritz. It's not easy to be a good father and a good teacher, and he's a damn good one."

"He has a sense of commitment," the woman with the scrapbook says. "He's never backed down from a challenge. He ran Michael Hayes out of Texas. He won the World championship for his brother David. Now that's commitment."

"I want to be as strong as Kerry is," one of the young boys says. "I betcha he could whup Superman any day of the week. And Kerry isn't a comic book character, he's real!"

And those are my answers. Congratulations, Kerry. People will say that being the most popular wrestler is no great accomplishment, but if you ask the people I asked, they'll tell you very differently. And they're the people who count. □

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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 14)

When the fans begin to recognize the greatness that is Ric Flair, it gives me a good feeling inside. It's one thing to know in your heart you're the best, but when everybody else recognizes it, too, well it kind of makes me a little proud of myself. I had my ups and downs in 1984, but when all is said and done, I had my title when the year began and I have it right now."

The Road Warriors (Tag Team of the Year, page 32): Speaking for the team, Animal: "We don't care about some stinkin' fan award. After you took your lousy picture for the cover of us holding up the plaques, we threw them in the trash can. The blood and guts of the people stupid enough to climb in the ring with us is the only trophy that means anything to us. But we won last year, we won this year, and will probably win for the next 10."

Billy Jack (Most Improved Wrestler, page 34): "Winning this award means more to me than any other. It proves

Billy Jack, battling Superstar Graham, showed vast improvement in 1984 as he became exposed to a variety of world-class caliber competitors.

something I've always believed strongly in: If you work hard enough you can make yourself a better person. I hope that by the fans voting for me as Most Improved Wrestler that they see how successful 1984 has been for me, they understand how hard I've worked to achieve that succcess, and they will try to improve themselves in the same way that I improved myself. I'm proud to be 'The People's Choice.' "

Kerry Von Erich (Most Popular Wrestler, page 40): "1984 has been at the same time the worst and best year of my life. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the fans for sticking by me through all of it. I am honored to be singled out for this award because it is truly a fans' award. And my fans are the greatest in all of wrestling."

Sgt. Slaughter (Inspirational Wrestler, page 44): "You want to talk about inspiration? How about looking out at 22,000 fans waving American flags and singing 'America The Beautiful'? The Sergeant doesn't need more

Sgt. Slaughter inspired a nation with his lengthy feud against former WWF champion The Iron Sheik. The Sergeant became one of the sport's most beloved men.

encouragement than that to beat up on an Iron Sheik or a Nikolai Volkoff."

Mike Von Erich (Rookie of the Year, page 46): "Looking back on my debut, it was scary stepping into the ring being a Von Erich. The fans expect more from the Von Erichs than they do other wrestlers. But it turned out great. I pushed myself to meet their expectations, and look where I wound up. I want to say thanks to the fans for getting my career off right!"

Precious Paul Ellering (Manager of the Year, page 48): "Manager of the Year? I'd think that should be worth an additional 10 percent cut from any new wrestlers that I sign. No increase for The Road Warriors, though. They're worth a million dollars to me already."

Roddy Piper, 1984's Most Hated Wrestler (page 42), was unavailable for comment, and I'm glad. If I had to talk to him, I probably would have missed my deadline! □

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Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

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• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

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• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

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• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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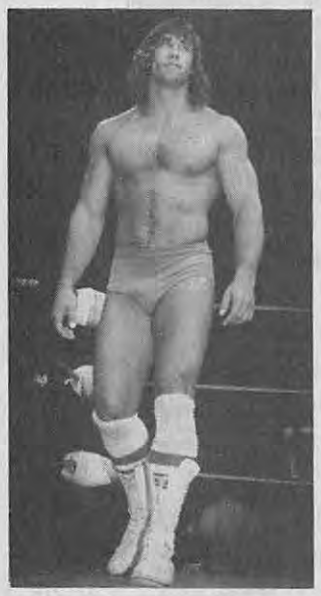
Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Kerry Von Erich

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

4—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

5—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

6—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

7—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

8—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

9—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

10—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—DUSTY RHODES & MANNY FERNANDEZ
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 565 pounds

3—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds

4—DICK MURDOCH & ADRIAN ADONIS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 521 pounds

5—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds

6—RON BASS & BLACK BART
Mid-Atlantic tag team champions
Combined weight: 546 pounds

7—KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV & JIM NEIDHARDT
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 551 pounds

8—TOMMY ROGERS & BOBBY FULTON
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 462 pounds

9—RIP ROGERS & TED OATES
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 473 pounds

10—CHAVO & HECTOR GUERRERO
No. 1 contenders for Mid-South tag team title
Combined weight: 472 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

2—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

3—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

4—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

5—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

6—PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX

7—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

8—JESSE BARR
243, Portland, OR

9—COWBOY RON BASS
265, Pampa, TX

10—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

2—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan

3—BILLY ROBINSON
246, Manchester, England

4—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN

5—JIM BRUNZELL
225, Minneapolis, MN

6—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA

7—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

8—CURT HENNIG
235, Robinsdale, MN

9—LARRY ZBYSZKO
240, Pittsburgh, PA

10—STEVE O
226, Edina, MN

MOST POPULAR

1—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

3—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

4—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

6—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

7—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

8—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

9—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR

10—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

MOST HATED

1—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

2—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England

3—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

4—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

5—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA

6—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

7—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia

8—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

9—KING KING BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ

10—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

1—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
2—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Los Angeles, CA
3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
4—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
5—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
6—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
7—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
8—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
9—**JESSE VENTURA**
270, Muscle Beach, CA
10—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

GEORGIA

1—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
2—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
223, Marietta, GA
3—**TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
4—**BOB ARMSTRONG**
242, Marietta, GA
5—**TIM HORNER**
228, Morristown, TN
6—**JERRY OATES**
247, Columbus, GA
7—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
8—**BOB ROOP**
273, Tampa, Florida
9—**OLE ANDERSON**
256, Minneapolis, MN
10—**OX BAKER**
313, Waterloo, IA

WORLD CLASS

1—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
2—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
3—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford on Avon, England
4—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
5—**MIKE VON ERICH**
220, Denton, TX
6—**KILLER KHAN**
312, Mongolia
7—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
9—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
10—**SWEET BROWN SUGAR**
226, Lake Dallas, TX

MID-ATLANTIC

1—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
2—**RON BASS**
265, Pampa, TX
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
5—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
6—**IVAN KOLOFF**
230, Moscow, Russia
7—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
8—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
7—**MIKE DAVIS**
232, Atlanta, GA
10—**DON KERNODLE**
237, Charlotte, North Carolina

FLORIDA

1—**PEZ WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
2—**JESSE BARR**
243, Portland, OR
3—**SCOTT McGHEE**
220, Shipley, England
4—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
5—**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
6—**DORY FUNK JR.**
244, Amarillo, TX
7—**MIKE GRAHAM**
229, Tampa, FL
8—**THE SAINT**
242, Havana, Cuba
9—**DUTCH MANTEL**
242, Bucksnorth, TN
10—**ANGELO MOSCA JR.**
234, Caledou, Ontario

MID-SOUTH

1—**ERNIE LADD**
354, Houston, TX
2—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
3—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
234, South Wales
4—**BUTCH REED**
265, Kansas City, MO
5—**TERRY TAYLOR**
219, Vero Beach, FL
6—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
7—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
8—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
275, Tampa, FL
9—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
295, Tulsa, OK
10—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL

MID-SOUTHERN

1—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
2—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
3—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
4—**TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
5—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robinsdale, MN
6—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
7—**LANNY POFFO**
228, Sarasota, FL
8—**MASAO ITO**
247, Osaka, Japan
9—**MID-SOUTHERN SPOILER**
240, parts unknown
10—**PHIL HICKERSON**
230, Jackson, TN

NORTHWEST

1—**BILLY JACK**
245, Portland, OR
2—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
3—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
4—**KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
5—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
6—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
7—**JERRY GREY**
241, Tampa, FL
8—**ARMANDO GUERRERO**
210, Mexico
9—**MR. EBONY**
242, Parts Unknown
10—**JIMMY AFI**
232, Fiji Islands

For period ended November 6

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The year in review: Since this is the special year-end awards issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* we felt it would be interesting to take a look at where 1984's award winners stood in the ratings one year ago, and where they rate this month.

Ric Flair

Ric Flair, voted Wrestler of the Year, was only rated in one category in our March 1984 issue: the NWA, where he was ranked as number seven contender to then-NWA World champion Harley Race.

Not only does he sit atop the NWA ratings as World champion, he is also recognized as the number one wrestler in the world today as reflected in the Top 10 rankings. And, interestingly enough, Flair is also ranked in the Most Popular ratings, in the number eight spot. Although Flair is disliked in several areas of the country, he is one of the most popular wrestlers in his "home" territory of the Mid-Atlantic. And as Flair's third title reign lengthens, that popularity grows.

The Road Warriors, voted Tag Team of the Year, were the National tag team champions one year ago, and as such were rated number three in the tag team ratings behind NWA World tag team champions Jack and Jerry Brisco, and AWA World tag team champions Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell.

This month, Hawk and Animal are rated as the number one tag team in the world. And until another team comes along and can defeat them for the AWA World tag team belts, they'll probably remain number one for a long time.

Billy Jack, voted Most Improved Wrestler of the Year, held the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title one year ago, and was rated number one in the Northwest.

This month, Billy Jack is again rated number one in the Pacific Northwest: As of press time, Billy Jack held the PNW heavyweight title. In addition to his number one PNW ranking, Billy Jack is considered to be one of the most popular wrestlers in the world today, and is rated number nine in that category.

Kerry Von Erich, voted Most Popular Wrestler of the Year, was not even rated in the Most Popular ratings in our March 1984 issue! He was, however, rated number five in the World Class area.

This month, Kerry is all over the map! He is rated number one in the World Class area, due to his recent victory over Gino Hernandez for the World Class American heavyweight title. Kerry is ranked number three in the NWA, and number five in the Top 10 of the world. And, appropriately enough, the Most Popular Wrestler of the Year is ranked number one in the Most Popular ratings.

Roddy Piper

Roddy Piper, voted Most Hated Wrestler of the Year, was rated number three in the Mid-Atlantic one year ago, and was considered the top contender at the time to Greg Valentine's U.S. heavyweight championship. In our March 1983 issue, Piper wasn't ranked at all in the Most Hated ratings!

This month, Piper is the number one most hated man in wrestling, and is ranked number three in the WWF area.

Sgt. Slaughter, voted Inspirational Wrestler of the Year, was rated in the number four spot in the WWF last year.

This month, Slaughter remains in the WWF ratings, sitting in the number five slot in the category. Slaughter's enormous popularity throughout the year continues to go strong, as he is rated number five in the Most Popular rankings.

Mike Von Erich, voted Rookie of the Year, had only wrestled in a few professional matches by the time our March 1984 issue went to press, and wasn't rated at all in any category that month.

This month, Mike is rated number five in the World Class area, slipping one notch from the number four position he held last month.

The address for mail: Do you have a complaint about our ratings? A suggestion? An idea for an installment of "Ratings Analysis"? We always welcome your comments on our ratings system. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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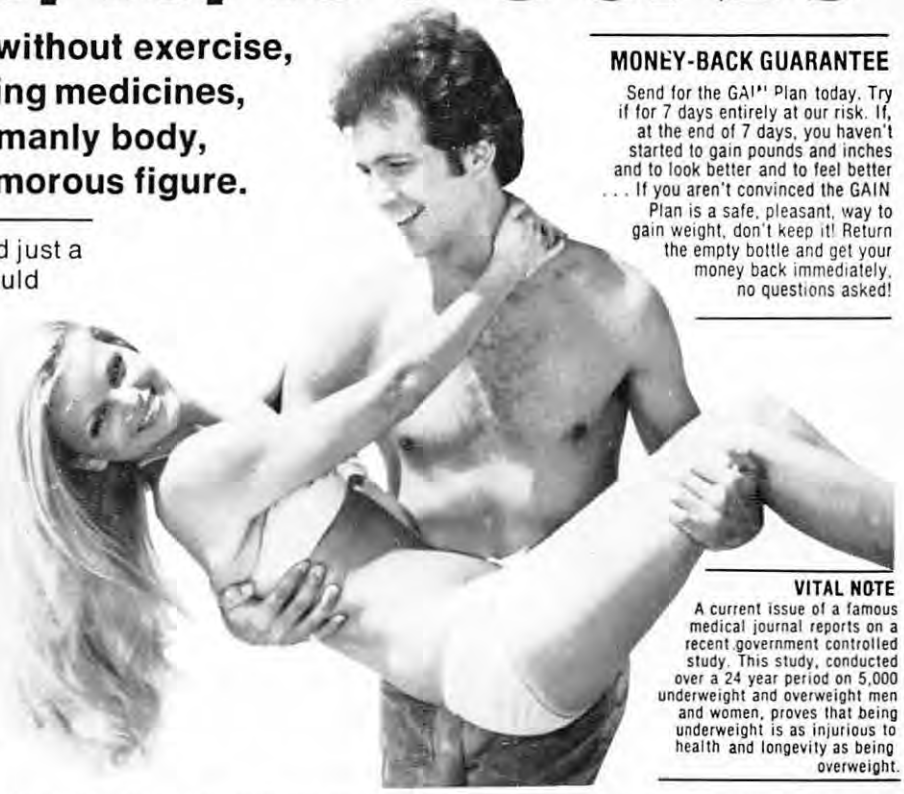

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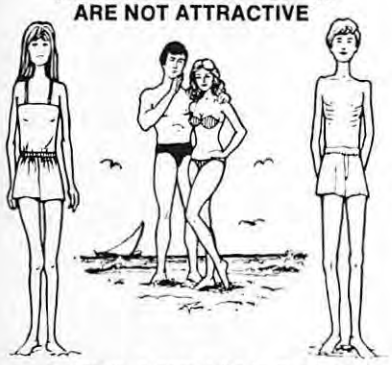

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